

Weekly Miner  
established 1875

# Silverton STANDARD & the MINER

A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN JOURNALISM

Silverton Standard  
established 1889

## The Latest

### Drinking water in Silverton safe

In light of the recent discharge of concentrated mine tailings into Cement Creek north of Silverton, town Public Works Director John Site issued a statement declaring the town's water supply safe.

"The quality of water in the town distribution system is of the same high quality that our customers have come to expect and continues to meet strict state and federal water quality standards."

In addition, Sites stated that "The Town of Silverton receives its water from two sources: Boulder Creek and Bear Creek, both of which originate in separate drainages than Cement Creek and do not co-mingle with Cement Creek prior to entry into the water treatment facility."

### Contact for concerns:

The public can contact the Silverton/San Juan County Incident Communications representative, Anthony Edwards, with any questions or concerns by e-mail at [communications@silverton.co.us](mailto:communications@silverton.co.us) or phone (970) 387-5522 Ext. 12.

### Animas River above Cement Creek is safe for recreation

The Animas River remains safe for recreational purposes above the Cement Creek confluence in Silverton, and the drinking water for the Town of Silverton remains safe for consumption. Late Tuesday afternoon, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment released the following:

"While we know monitoring needs to continue, we are encouraged to see decreasing contamination in the river as shown by our recent analysis," said state health department director and chief medical officer Dr. Larry Wolk. "CDPHE will continue to sample water in Cement Creek and the Animas River daily. We recognize the importance of the Animas River to communities in southwest Colorado and beyond."

The department does not anticipate adverse health effects from incidental or limited exposure to metals detected in the water. However, the department advises people to avoid contact with yellow- or orange-colored water and sediment. Wash skin with soap and water after contact. Please continue to follow the advisories issued by the San Juan Basin Health Department.

# Disaster declared

o Gold King blowout sends a toxic plume down the Animas.

o EPA officials: Agency takes full responsibility.

o Spill estimated at 3 million gallons of acid-mine waste.

o No serious impact yet seen on aquatic life, officials say.

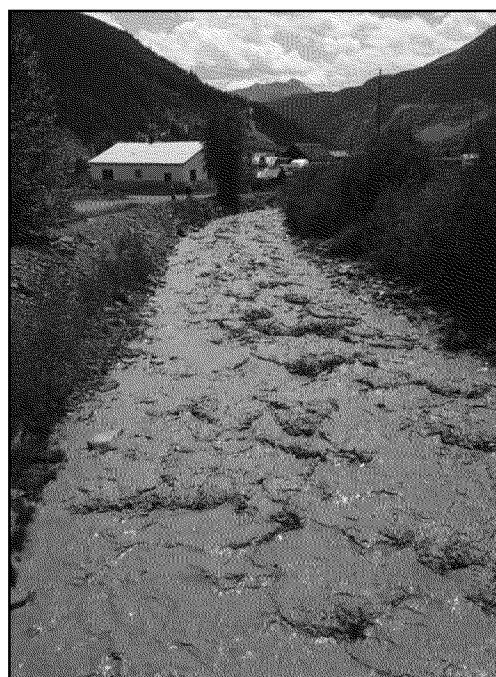


Jon Austria/Farmington Daily-Times

San Juan County Commissioner Pete McKay examines the Gold King #7 portal above Gladstone on Monday, Aug. 10, during a visit with EPA officials to the site of a mine-waste blowout that contaminated the Animas River on Aug. 6 and thrust the area's water quality issues into the national spotlight.

The plume of mine waste from the Gold King flowsthrugh Silverton on Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 5.

Will Meyerriecks/  
Silverton  
Standard  
& the Miner



## EPA: 'We recognize we have lessons to learn'

By Mark Esper

The estimated 3 million gallons of mine waste that burst from an earthen bank at the Gold King and swept into Cement Creek on Wednesday morning, Aug. 5, tainted the Animas River and triggered disaster declarations throughout the region.

The incident forced the cities of Durango, Aztec and Farmington, N.M., to seek alternate sources of drinking water and also has affected wells associated with the Animas River, as an ugly yellow plume containing heavy metals surged down the Animas.

By early this week, EPA officials reported that the leading edge of the

plume was no longer discernible and had reached Lake Powell.

The EPA, meanwhile, has set up temporary settling ponds and treatment facilities below the Gold King that has dramatically improved the quality of the 200 gallons per minute or so still spewing from the mine above Gladstone.

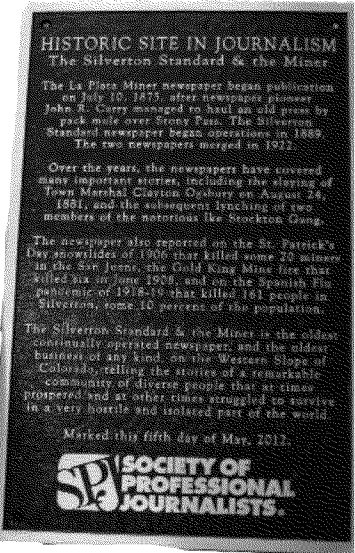
And Gov. Hickenlooper said Tuesday that possible health threats from the water in the Animas River have lessened.

EPA officials took full responsibility, but acknowledged it did not properly notify affected communities in a timely manner.

See GOLD KING, Page 9



Silverton Standard  
& the Miner  
A National Historic  
Site in Journalism



Official newspaper of  
the Town of Silverton  
and San Juan County. The  
Silverton Standard & the  
Miner is published every  
Thursday by the San Juan  
County Historical Society.  
Our mailing address is  
P.O. Box 8, Silverton, CO  
81433.

Periodicals postage paid at  
Silverton, Colo.  
USPS #496-880  
Postmaster, send address  
changes to: P.O. Box 8,  
Silverton, CO 81433

Contacting us  
In Person:  
1315 Snowden St., Suite 308  
(Upstairs at the historic Min-  
er's Union Hospital building)  
Telephone:  
Editor: (970) 387-5477  
Advertising: (970) 387-5477  
Mail:  
Silverton Standard  
P.O. Box 8 Silverton, CO  
81433  
E-mail:  
editor@silvertonstandard.com

Staff:  
Editor and publisher:  
Mark Esper  
Bookkeeper:  
Bev Rich

Subscriptions  
\$24 per year for Silverton  
residents; \$48 per year for all  
other deliveries by U.S. mail.  
E-mail edition: \$26 per year.

Our goals  
The Silverton Standard & the  
Miner is a weekly newspaper  
written for people interested in  
the issues and news of Silver-  
ton, Colo., and the surround-  
ing San Juan Mountains region.  
The Standard voices a strong  
sense of community for Sil-  
verton and the San Juans as it  
brings you the issues, charac-  
ters, landscapes, and the talent  
of the region. Stressing in-  
depth, balanced, and thought-  
ful writing, news, photography,  
and topical articles on key  
issues affecting the region, the  
Standard keeps the greater San  
Juan community informed,  
entertained, provoked, and  
engaged in dialogue about the  
community and its future.  
Letters to the editor may be  
edited for length or content.

© 2015, Silverton Standard  
& the Miner

Weshould embrace Superfund

By Mark Esper

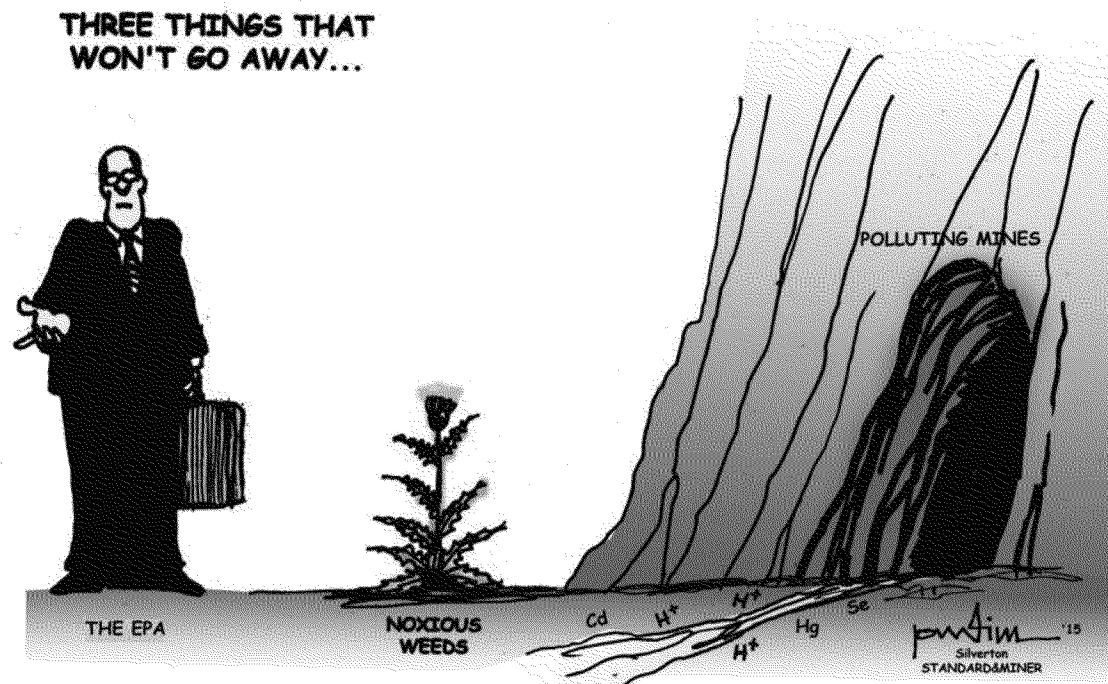
Asking anyone in Silverton,  
Colo., how the past week has  
gone would be like asking Mrs.  
Lincoln how she enjoyed the  
play.  
The disaster that unfolded last  
week has thrust the problem of  
acid-mine drainage leaking from  
abandoned mines in the spec-  
tacular San Juan Mountains into  
the national — and even global  
— spotlight.  
The bad publicity so many  
local business owners feared from  
a possible Superfund designation  
could not possibly match this.  
The ugly, orange blob of mine

editor's Opinion

waste that burst through the  
14-foot-high, 12-foot-wide Gold  
King portal Aug. 5 also burst a lot  
of notions about the scope and  
urgency of the problem that the  
region has been struggling with  
for years.  
It's a complex problem with  
no easy or cheap solutions. And  
when it comes down to it, the  
biggest fight has been over who is  
responsible and who should pay.  
For years we've watched water  
quality in the upper Animas  
River deteriorate. Within the  
last decade, three of four trout  
species have disappeared in the

area, as heavy metals continue to  
flow relentlessly from this former  
mining district.  
And this very serious, chronic  
problem is afflicting a lot more  
than the Animas River. At this  
point it's become utterly debili-  
tating for Silverton itself.  
There's a lot of blame to go  
around. The EPA itself takes re-  
sponsibility for the spill. But the  
agency was tasked with dealing  
with unstable old mine sites with  
plenty of inherent risk. Obviously  
more precautions will be needed  
in future cleanup operations to  
address the pools of tainted water  
lurking behind some unstable

See EDITOR, Page 8



The River of Lost Souls

By Freddie Canfield

El Rio de las Animas. The River of Souls. Your  
cooperative weather observer's preference would  
be for equanimity — even souled-ness to prevail  
in our realm. Instead, the invisible pendulum has  
swung wildly since our most recent blowout — 7  
Level at the Gold King Mine.  
So this weather week kicked off on Wednesday,  
Aug. 5, along with any number of young males of  
our species making Darwinian Award attempts in  
our backcountry elsewhere that day. Often seem-  
ingly isolated incidents form a bigger picture.  
Reality just is. Reality has no concern for any of  
our assumptions, agenda, beliefs, nor our often  
tragic/comic need to try to impress ourselves and  
each other. Reality just is.  
Once again we have the opportunity to wake up  
to the fact that big questions require big answers  
and genuinely adaptable and sustainable solutions.  
Rather than ill-conceived Draconian lockstep  
measures or any other concoctions of our puny  
ego minds.  
Biggest of all is the biggest word of all — respon-  
sibility. Because in real-world situations, acts and  
consequences affect us all. Way up here and way  
downstream. Big picture. Way beyond what's in it  
for me. So what's it going to be?  
What with the permeability of mined-out stopes  
plus that sinkhole of Lake Emma and hundreds  
of miles of honeycombed mountains, our legacy  
and liability isn't going to just go away. Only our  
attention span does that.  
Meanwhile, water keeps doing what water does.  
Add oxygen. Resulting in decomposing pyritic sul-

Weather and Observations

Date	High	Low	Precip., conditions
Aug. 5	78	36	Clear
Aug. 6	76	37	Mid mix
Aug. 7	67	42	.36 Foggy mix
Aug. 8	68	34	Clear
Aug. 9	72	34	Clear
Aug. 10	73	37	.02 Foggy mix
Aug. 11	73	53	.26 Foggy mix

fides forming sulfuric acid and transporting toxic  
metals. A setup of a set-piece equation with some  
interesting variables.  
Water seeks its own level, and when given the  
opportunity, will go from static head to active  
head. That is what just happened with some 3 mil-  
lion gallons. Where and when will the dynamics  
of hydrological physics next appear?  
Most of that metallic content is iron. Along with  
that is plenty of irony. Like that of those of us who  
hired on to do reclamation work up Gladstone  
way, eight years ago being ordered to tear out the  
limestone treatment plant. We are not proud.  
At that time, 7 Level already had plenty of water  
building up. Guess what continued to happen?  
We who live here often are likely to know about  
such things. Yet who ever asks?  
How the weather week begins and how it ends is  
never predetermined. So over the Rainbow Route  
was a rainbow at 6:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12. I  
can't help but smile as I describe this as clearly be-  
ing a good omen! Especially following the darkness  
See WEATHER, Page 11

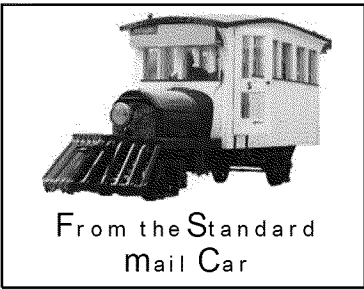
Write to us

The Silverton Standard & the Miner welcomes letters to the editor. Send letters via e-mail to editor@silvertonstandard.com, or via snail mail to, Editor, Silverton Standard & the Miner, P.O. Box 8, Silverton, CO 81433.  
Signed letters and articles are the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editor. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 300 words and will be edited at the editor's discretion for length. Letters should be pertinent to community issues.  
Opinion pieces longer than 300 words will be published at the editor's discretion.

Guest Opinion  
And the  
heavens  
opened up

By Don Stott

September 1970, almost cost  
Silverton its railroad. A cloud  
hung over Silverton for a couple  
of days, and dropped hundreds of  
billions of gallons of rain water  
on the Town. Silverton wasn't  
harmd, but the water went into  
the Animas, and a gigantic flood  
resulted, which took out literally,  
miles of narrow gauge track.  
As an example, mile post 472,  
which is the Tacoma power plant,  
has a siding which a few cars and  
a 'pop car' or two resided. The  
water level was 20-25 feet above  
normal when it reached 472, and  
the water level climbed several feet  
up the walls of the power plant,  
and took out the line as well as  
the siding. At about 473, track is  
built up next to a high cliff, and  
kept from the river by boulders  
and cribbing. All the cribbing was  
gone, and track hung twisted in  
mid air. Even the ties had been  
washed from the track, pulling out  
spikes, and washed it all down-  
stream.  
The same situation was present  
at Needleton, where a mile and  
a half of track was gone, and any  
evidence of there having been a  
railroad there wasn't obvious. The  
entire line was full of trees, brush,  
and washed out track compo-  
See STOTT, Page 3



Please note that  
Silverton is still  
great — and safe!  
Editor;  
Please send the message to  
visitors that Silverton continues  
to be a great place to visit, enjoy  
camping and hiking, view the  
beautiful scenery, shop, stay the  
night, and don't worry about  
the water.  
Our water source is not the  
Animas River, and we continue  
to take our daily showers and  
enjoy the best drinking water in  
Colorado.  
— Thanks, Doug and Becky  
Hill, Silverton

Future training site  
for rowing team?  
Editor;  
The town of Silverton should  
invite the U.S. Rowing Team to  
work out in the stretch of the  
Animas River just south of town,  
providing our athletes with  
nearly identical conditions as  
they are enduring on the Rodri-  
go de Freitas Lake in Brazil with  
one major distinction.  
In Silverton they would  
be practicing at an elevation  
of 9,300 feet, giving them a  
distinct advantage for when the  
Olympic Games are held next  
year at near sea level.  
—Michael G. Rosenberg,  
Hesperus



# Kids fired up to Step Back in Time

**Children ready to get involved with the celebration**

Students in the Silverton School Summer PEAK program have Carolyn Wilcox fired up. She, Casey Carroll, and Kathy and Ron Dewitz are involved in organizing this year's Step Back in Time celebration and they decided to get local children involved.

So far, it's working out great. "I was so pumped with those kids," Wilcox said. More than a dozen students visited the museum and discussed old times and mining life in Silverton.

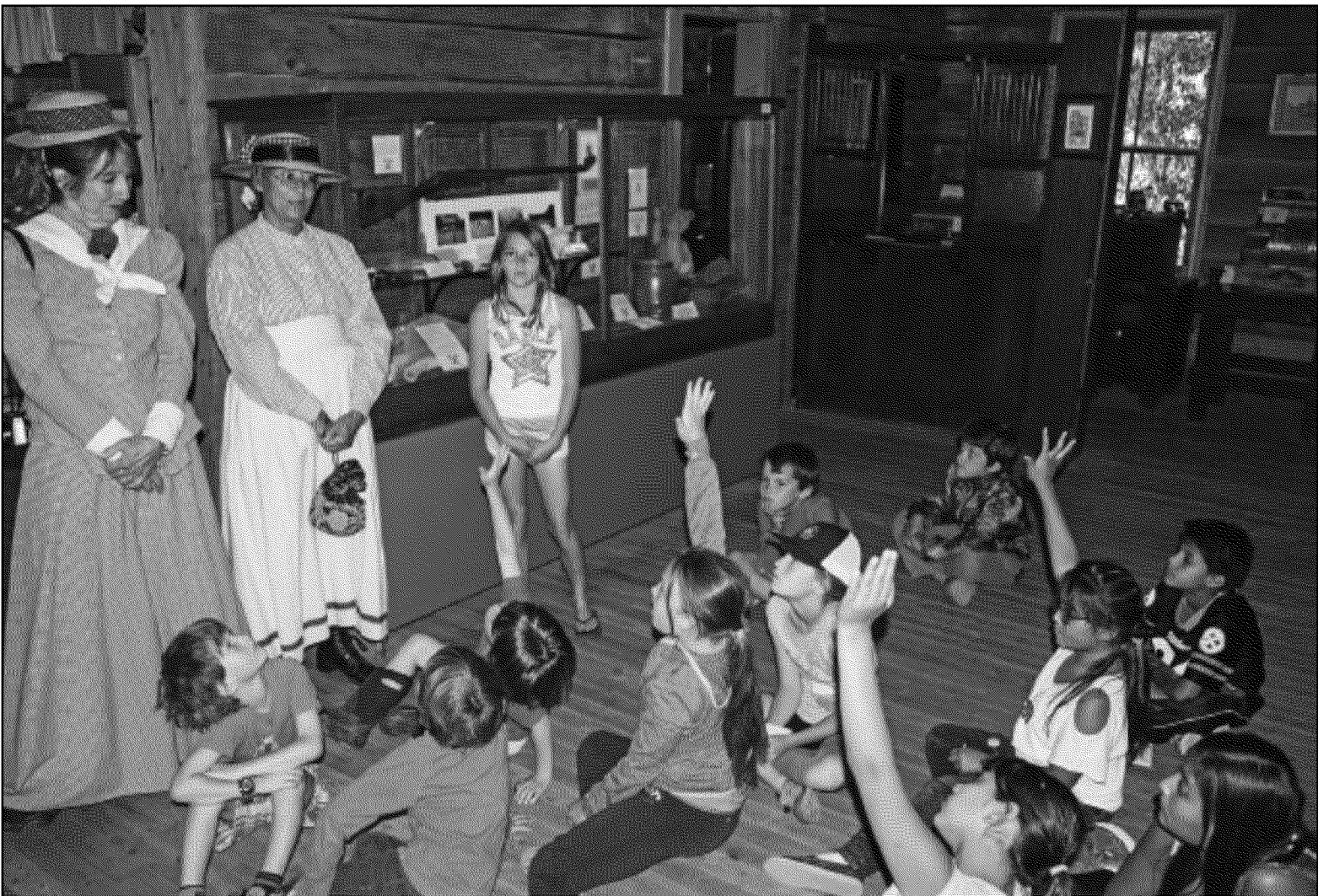
"If we can get the kids inspired it will pass on and on," Wilcox said. "Their questions were out of this world. They were listening intently. It was awesome."

Silverton's Step Back in Time celebration is scheduled for Sept. 18-19.

The event celebrates the Old Days of Silverton.

The idea is to get the town's children involved.

Wilcox said they liked the idea of meeting the trains in costumes, attending an ice cream social and learning how to play old-fashioned games that kids used to play before computers and TVs.



Carolyn Wilcox, left, and Kathy Dewitz discuss the upcoming Silverton Step Back in Time celebration with Silverton schoolchildren.

STOTT, from Page 2

nents. Where the track wasn't demolished, and miles of it was, piles of rubbish, sand, gravel, and trees were piled up 100 feet wide and 25 feet tall in many places.

It was a disaster of previously unknown proportions. There hadn't been a damaging flood on the line since 1911. Literally, several miles of railroad were erased off the map in September of 1970.

This became a golden opportunity to abandon the railroad, which the D&RGW had been trying to do for several years anyway. The Public Utilities Commission, in 1968, had already given permission to abandon the lines from Alamosa to Durango and Farmington, and the last trains were to run in 1970, coincidentally and conveniently, the same year the Silverton Branch had been hacked to virtual oblivion by Mother Nature.

Silverton went to work. The railroad had become a major tourist

attraction, and Silverton wasn't about to let it go. It was a year before I got there, buying the Grand Imperial in 1971, but Gerald Swanson has told me about the heroic efforts Silverton's Chamber of Commerce and business people put forth to save the 45 miles of narrow gauge line from Durango.

The D&RGW fought just as hard to get rid of the narrow gauge lines everywhere. In 1955, the line over Marshal Pass had been abandoned and demolished. Since they had already been given permission to get rid of another 250 miles of narrow gauge, they wanted to get rid of the 45.2 miles to Silverton also, thereby divorcing itself from all narrow gauge, steam-powered railroads they owned and had determined to get rid of ASAP.

Silverton's efforts, and the undeniable fact that the trains were sold out weeks in advance in summers, plus the line showed a nice profit, convinced the PUC

in Denver, and the D&RGW was ordered to fix the line and run trains in summers.

The D&RGW did everything in their corporate power to try to show that the line didn't show a profit, by tacking all sorts of superfluous costs to the line's ledger, but the PUC saw through the obvious cooking of the books.

Durango didn't seem as concerned as did Silverton with the potential of not having narrow gauge trains running in summers. Possibly, because with no narrow gauge, the entire yard area, of many acres, in the midst of downtown Durango, would be available for development?

No one knows for certain, but

the Silverton Branch was secure, and when Charlie Bradshaw bought the line, he built new cars, strengthened bridges, began using the K-36's, and doubled the line's capacity, with four trains a day, not the D&RGW's two.

Don Stott is a former Silverton resident.

New date for meeting!



Designing and Old Time style is fun, as! Address the the people of our town by attending the Silverton Step Back in Time at 7pm Tuesday, Sept 1. Hope to see you!

THE WEEKLY ARTS & CRAFTS CELEBRATES LIFE IN SILVERTON EVERY YEAR BY DESIGNING AND CRAFTING LIKE FOLKS DO IN TOWN

Mountain Air  
MUSIC SERIES  
Durango, Colorado

mountain  
air music  
festival  
fells park

NEXT TO THE DURANGO  
HOT SPRINGS POOL

august 15  
2-8 PM

LIVE MUSIC, ALL LOCAL & COLORADO  
BEVERAGES, FOOD & VENDORS,  
A LIVE AUCTION OF MOUNTAIN AIR  
MEMORABILIA & TONS OF FAMILY FUN!

\$5 ENTRY  
(UNDER 17-FREE)  
A FUNDRAISER FOR THE  
MOUNTAIN AIR MUSIC SERIES

2 PM  
MIKE  
GWINN  
and  
the north fork  
flyers trio

4 PM  
THE  
ASTRAL  
KNOTS

6 PM  
THE  
GOLD  
MAGNOLIAS  
cd release  
concert

facebook.com/ouraymusicseries

with special thanks to our major sponsors:





Mark Esper/Silverton Standard & the Miner

ABOVE: The San Juan County road crew works Monday to repair a large culvert that was damaged by the surge of mine waste on Wednesday, Aug. 5. BELOW: The North Fork of Cement Creek, with rapidly constructed settling ponds beneath it to treat the mine waste still gushing from Gold King #7 level.



Jon Austria/Farmington Daily-Times

Local officials met with EPA officials in charge of the Gold King Mine project on Monday afternoon at the site. From left are San Juan County administrator Willie Tookey, Silverton Standard editor Mark Esper, La Plata County Commissioner Gwen Lachelt, San Juan County Board Chairman Ernie Kuhlman, EPA on-scene coordinator Hayes Griswold, and EPA assistant regional director Martin Hestmark.

### Superfund or not?

Concern focuses on a cluster of mine sites at and above Gladstone, including the American Tunnel, Gold King Number 7 level (which blew out Aug. 5), the Mogul and Grand Mogul and the Red and Bonita mines.

Bill Simon coordinator of the Animas River Stakeholders Group, said that while the group has sought “appropriate and cost-effective assistance” from the EPA, the group has “consistently rejected the CERCLA (Superfund) program.”

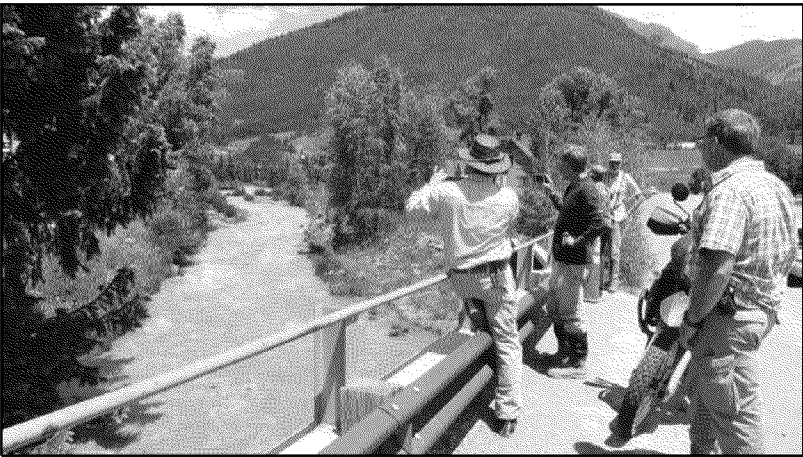
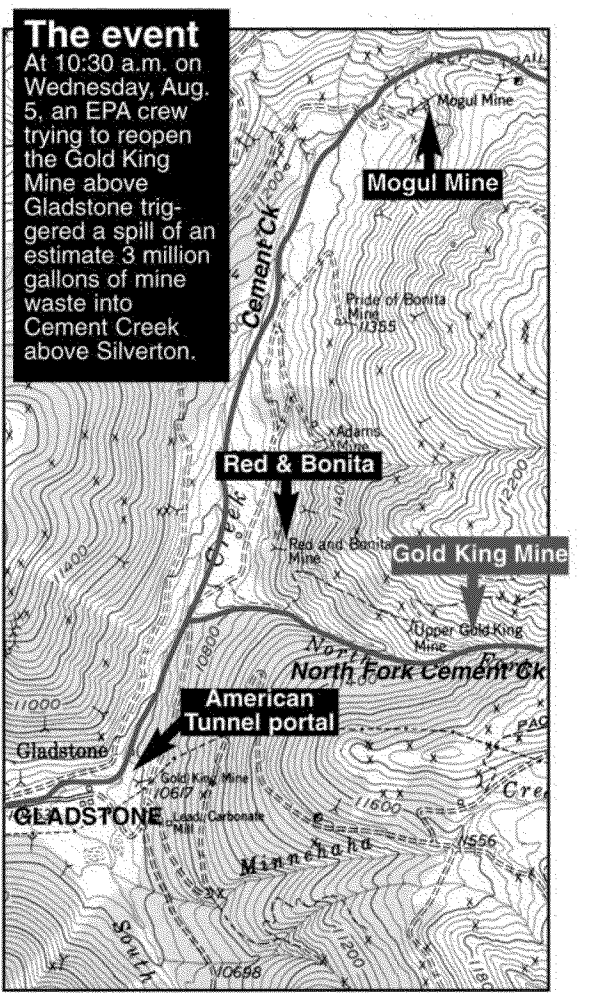
The ASRG has instead favored funding from other sources, such as the Headwaters Initiative, Mine Scarred Lands and Targeted Brownfields programs.

“Nevertheless, all options are on the table, as they have been in the past,” Simon said. “The EPA has obligations that they must attempt to address and we have ours. They are not always the same.”

Simon estimated some 400 pounds of zinc per day are being poured into the drainage. Much of that was previously being taken out by the treatment plant at Gladstone prior to 2004.

The stakeholders group was formed in 1994 as a collaborative approach to water quality issues in the region and as an alternative to a Superfund designation in the area. It includes representatives from the EPA, Colorado Department of Health and Environment, the San Juan Public Lands Office, and community members interested in water quality issues in the upper Animas Basin.

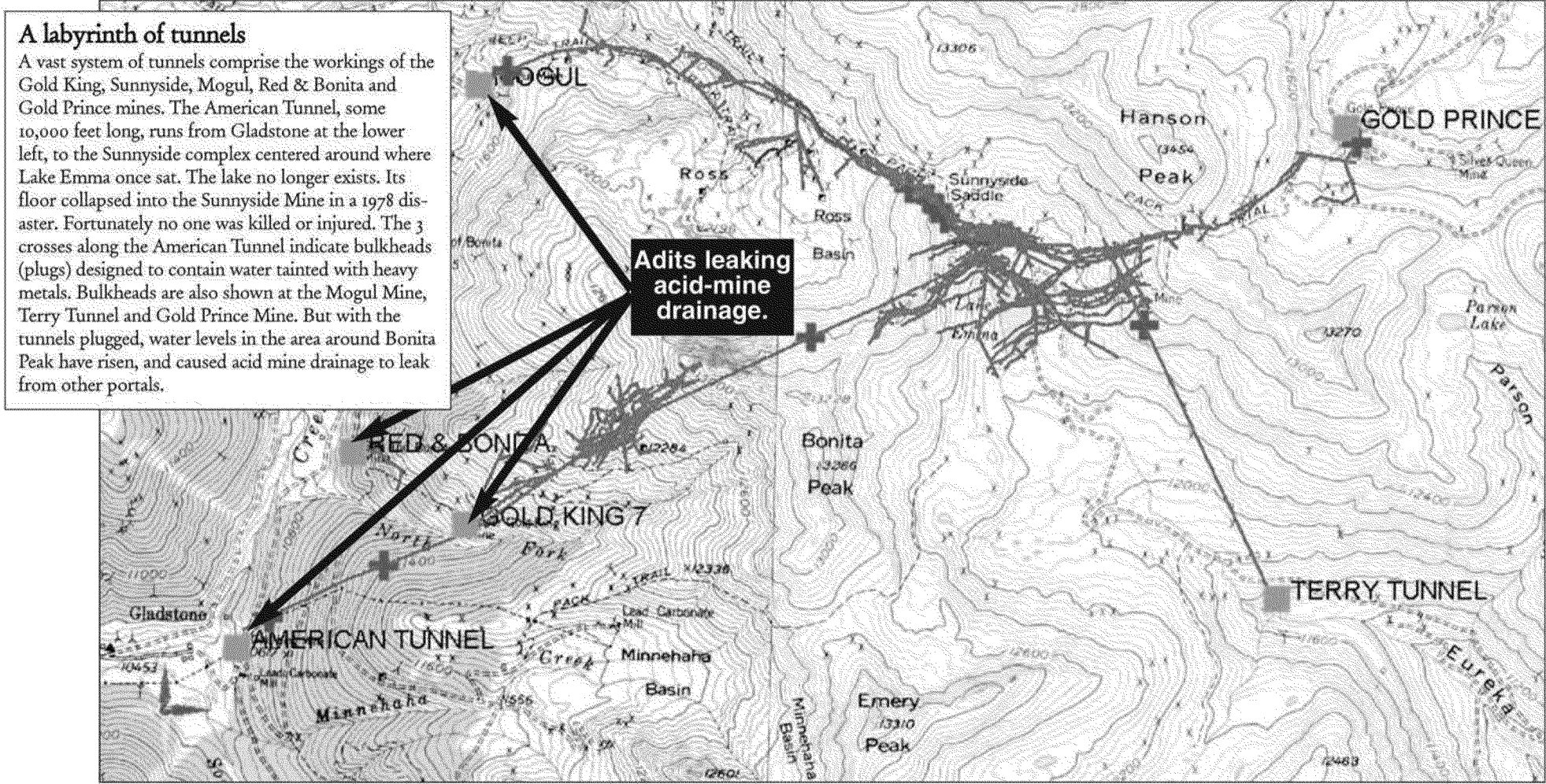
Many in the Silverton community felt that the stigma of such a designation would devastate the area’s tourism industry.



San Juan County Sheriff Bruce Conrad, right, and others watch as tainted water released from the Gold King Mine rushed down Cement Creek at the Greene Street bridge early Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 5.

Mark Esper/Silverton Standard & the Miner





Mining firm  
opposing  
Superfund

Sunnyside Gold Corp., a subsidiary of Kinross Gold, once operated the Sunnyside Mine and American Tunnel.

The company has resisted Superfund listing and has instead pledged up to \$10 million for a collaborative solution — provided it is released from liability for the contamination.

In April 2014, under pressure from the EPA and the Colorado Department of Health and the Environment, Sunnyside Gold Corp. announced its “Game Plan” to address Cement Creek water quality issues:

1. Continue to gather the requisite knowledge to understand the problem. (Ongoing)
2. Continue to pursue innovative technologies to address the problem. (Ongoing)
3. Pursue funding and resources for solution. (present-Oct. 2016)
4. Undertake preparatory work to bulkhead Red & Bonita. (2014)
5. Bulkhead Red & Bonita. (2015)
6. Analyze impact of Red & Bonita bulkhead. (Commencing 2015)
7. Select preferred solution. (November 2016)
8. Commence engineering of preferred solution. (December 2016)
9. Implement preferred solution. (June 2017)



Officials from the Southern Ute and Navajo tribes tour the Gold King Mine on Sunday, Aug. 9, where a massive leak of acid-mine drainage laden with heavy metals burst from a sealed mine and washed away a large section of the tailings pile below the mine.

Byron Wiedemann/  
Silverton Standard  
& the Miner



# Chronology of Catastrophe

The disastrous spill of an estimated 3 million tons of mine waste from the Gold King Mine on Aug. 5 was the culmination of a long history. The following chronology was developed with information from the Animas Rivers Stakeholders Group (ARSG) and by the Silverton Standard archives:

1959-1961 — Tunnel extended beyond Gold King property to the Sunnyside Mine workings and re-named the American Tunnel (AT).

1978 — Lake Emma floods the Sunnyside mine, forcing a temporary closure.

Fall 1978 — Treatment plant commissioned for the treatment of American Tunnel (AT) discharge. Re-designed and upgraded 1988-1989.

Summer 1991 — Sunnyside Mine closes.

November 1993 — Technical Revisions to the Reclamation Plan, including bulkheads installations, approved by the MLRB.

May 1994 — Sunnyside Gold Corporation (SGC) filed for Declaratory Relief requesting that the Court determine whether seeps and springs that occurred after proposed bulkheading would be subject to the NPDES requirements.

Summer 1994 — WQCC hearing on implementing new “goal based” water quality standards; resulted in ARSG accepting the challenge to determine conditions, determine feasibility for remediation, and make recommendations for achievable water quality standards throughout the Animas Watershed.

Fall 1994 — Animas River Stakeholders Group formed and Bill Simon hired as Coordinator.

1995 — Mogul and Grand Mogul mines purchased at tax sale by Salem Minerals Inc. Later transferred to San Juan Corp. (Todd Hennis, President of both).

1995 — Proposed Sunnyside Gold Corp. (SGC) consent decree open for public comment; ARSG had not yet reached consensus therefore did not comment. Individuals, landowners, etc., were encouraged to comment on their own.

May, 1996 — SGC and WQCD entered into the Consent Agreement. “A” list remediation projects: Sunnyside Mine Pool, So Fork Cement Cr Mine Waste dump, Surface Mill Tailings at Eureka, Gold Prince Mill tailings and bulkhead, Koehler Longfellow Portal and Mine Waste Dump, Boulder Creek Mill Tailings, Pride of the West Mill Tailings. “B” list projects: Columbus Mine Portal, London Portal

1996 — SGC/State of Colorado Consent Decree (CD) approved.

1996 — SGC begins group A remediation projects including Koehler dump removal, Longfellow mine waste remediation, and the Koehler/Junction red

## History of the Gold King

The Gold King mine was developed in the 1890s and was a very successful mine. There was a mill at Gladstone and aerial tramways from the #1 level and later from the #7 level to the mill.

They built the Silverton, Gladstone & Northerly Railroad from Silverton to Gladstone to ship concentrates from the mine to Silverton to be sent on to Durango.

Funds from this mine also were used to develop the Gold Prince Mine, Mill (Animas Forks) and tramway, which was the main reason the Silverton Northern Railroad was extended from Eureka to Animas Forks by Otto Mears.

The original first mile of the American Tunnel was driven by the Gold King company and is approximately 900 feet

lower than the #7 level adit; however, no direct connection was ever completed. The Gold King mine shut down in 1909 partially as a result of the 1907 financial downturn, loss of facilities from a major fire, and no funds to re-build. (Based on old records, it appears that the owners in Boston and Maine stripped all of the cash out of the mining company to cover losses from the 1907 financial crisis.) It was re-opened for a short time in the 1915-16 period and once again in the early 1920s. There has not been any substantial production since that time.

The last work in the Gold King was an exploration project from 1983-88, when some tunneling and sampling and core drilling was done. This work was under a mined land

mains about the same however.

1999-2003 — Mogul mine discharge increase is noted in the fall of 1999; eventually increasing up to 200 gallons per minute. ARSG data after 2003 also indicated an increased flow since our 1997 sample.

1999-2003 — Sunnyside did supplemental CD projects, Mayflower Mill/TP#1 upland diversions, TP4 toe ditch liner and upland diversions.

May, 2001 — Last sample taken from AT #1 bulkhead. Sunnyside Mine pool thought to have reached equilibrium. (This condition was required to be met before additional bulkheads could be installed downstream in the AT).

August 2001 — American Tunnel second bulkhead installed; valve closed on August 31st.

Fall 2002 — Gold King Mines Corp. (GKMC) purchased the Mogul mine from San Juan Corp.(SJC, Hennis, president) for a note. As additional surety to secure the note, GKMC gave SJC a second mortgage on the Anglo Saxon and Harrison MS (which included the water treatment facilities and settling ponds, respectively, at Gladstone).

Fall 2002 — SGC and GKMC enter into agreement(s) for GKMC to take over the SGC treatment plant, treat Cement Creek for 6 months and the remaining discharge from the AT, (which allegedly is the historic flow originating from fault zones in the Gold King property and which they were interested in treating as part of their mining plan). SGC had previously leased the Harrison and Anglo Saxon claims from GKMC. GKMC intended to use the treatment plant to treat Gold King mine discharge as part of their mining plan. GKMC agreed to install bulkheads at the Mogul and Koehler mines. SJC became owner of Herbert Placer.

December 2002 — American Tunnel 3rd bulkhead installed; valve closed on December 3rd.

reclamation permit from what is now the Division of Mining, Reclamation and Safety. Up until the second bulkhead was placed in the American Tunnel by Sunnyside Gold, the discharge was about 10-30 gallons per minute. Old photos from before the American Tunnel was driven show a significant flow out of the Gold King #7 tunnel (adit).

Apparently, after the American Tunnel was driven (early 1910s by the Gold King mine operator) the flow decreased to almost nothing.

A few years after the American Tunnel bulkheads were completed, the flow from the Gold King #7 adit increased (again) up to 300 gallons per minute. This was the flow that the EPA was investigating.

2003 — Mogul bulkhead was completed in August 2003 and Koehler bulkhead completed September 2003 by GKMC.

2003 — Sunnyside completes a supplemental Power Plant Tailings Project and the construction of a reactive treatment wall below Mayflower Tailings Pond #4 as an amendment to CD.

January 2003 — CDPHE determined that the Terms of Consent Decree had been met.

January 2003 — CDPHE transferred the AT CPDES (discharge) permit to GKMC.

January 2003 — Gold King Corp. begins treatment of AT, treated Cement Creek till June, 2003 and AT discharge until January 2004.

Related Agreements between SCG and other parties (some dates provided elsewhere):

Amendments #3 & #4. Amendment #5 projects completed: Power Plant tailings, Power Plant hydrologic controls, passive reactive wall construction (per presentation by Larry Perino, 10/2004).

Baumgartner Agreement (SGC funds to facilitate bulkheading of the Koehler Tunnel), San Juan Agreement (Herbert Placer deeded to SJC, SJC transfer Mogul to Gold King Mines, SJC leases settling ponds to Gold King for water treatment) Gold King Agreement (bulkhead Mogul, AT treatment plant and other buildings transferred to Gold King, Transfer AT discharge permit to Gold King, etc.)

June to Fall 2003 — Cement Creek was treated into 2003 except for a short period in 1999. The CC flows treated did vary from all of CC in winter to just a portion in the summers. The flows treated ranged from ~450 gpm to ~ 1600 gpm.

July 2003 — Consent decree terminated.

July 4, 2003 — Large discharge from Red & Bonita is noted by Hennis and reported to the State. San Juan County

had already installed a culvert to prevent the county road from washing out from the discharge.

Summer 2003 — GKC installs pipe from Gold King to Gladstone and begins treatment of GK discharge.

August 2003 — San Juan Corp. notifies GKMC it is in default of Lease on Herbert Placer due to failure to maintain adequate liability insurance.

September 2003 — GKMC unsuccessfully attempts to acquire insurance.

October 2003 — SJC demands GKMC cease using settling ponds.

November 2003 — District Court finds in favor of SJC; an agreement is worked out to permit continued operation of water treatment plant if insurance is acquired and a new short term lease is negotiated.

January 2004 — GKMC acquires liability insurance through SGC’s parent company and a new short term lease is signed between GKMC and SJC

January 2004 — Severe snowstorm closes County Road to Gladstone for one week. No access was available to run standby generator, resulting significant freeze damage of water treatment equipment. The back-up lime treatment plant (Terry Tunnel portable plant) was re-activated and the plant came on line in February. This resulted in the discharge at Gladstone (AT treatment) out of compliance. Treatment continued but due to variable operating conditions, some excursions resulted in out of compliance parameters, which were reported to the CDPHE.

May 2004 — SJC alleges multiple defaults of new lease agreement. Issues largely stem from effects of January snowstorm damages.

May 2004 — Active water treatment had almost ceased and the untreated flows were going into the settling ponds where the resultant precipitates were acidifying the two million gallons of previously lime treated sludges, creating a much larger environmental problem. In the words of one State official, “Gold King has had only a partial pallet of lime and it’s not being used.” Colorado Department of Health Hazardous Materials Sections threatens SJC with removal action of the abandoned sludges in the settling ponds. Steve Fearn of GKMC rebuts this however, pointing out that they had not run out of lime and had arranged for delivery of more lime. GKMC continued to treat the Terry Tunnel discharge until they were shut down by the Court.

July 2004 — GKMC lease with SJC was apparently modified so GKMC could install new equipment, new settling ponds, and restart treatment of AT. However treatment not restarted due to SJC renewing litigation between GKMC and SJC. Or treatment  
*See TIMELINE, Page 7*

TIMELINE, from Page 6

not restarted due lack of funds to purchase lime. (Dispute between parties).

September 2004 — Simon first notices and reports on an increase of flow from Red and Bonita mine to 72 GPM.

September 2004 — GKMC receives Notice of Violation/Cease and Desist Order from CDPHE.

September 2004 — SJC demands GKMC vacate Herbert Placer settling ponds. SJC offers settling pond use to WQCD for emergency water treatment by WQCD or “another responsible party.” Mark Pipfer, Director of WQCD, (allegedly) replies “we have zero interest in that”.

October 2004 — Through action initiated by SJC, San Juan County District court ordered that GKMC cease and desist the use of the treatment settling ponds, due to GKMC's loss of lease on the settling ponds. GKMC complies with Court Order and ceases treatment.

October 2004 — EPA calls SJC to see if the settling ponds can remain for use. SJC offers the use of the ponds to EPA for water treatment as long as EPA will guarantee reclamation of the ponds when the use is finished. E.P.A. refuses. However the EPA representative, C. Russell, stated that Mr. Hennis' offer was conditional upon his receiving total liability relief from discharges from his mine sources (in the area).

October 2004 — WQCD initiated enforcement action re failure to comply with AT discharge permit.

Fall 2004 — ARSG requests EPA to provide a Targeted Brownfields grant to San Juan County to investigate increasing discharges from Gladstone area mines, determine practical treatment plant designs and discharge sources for treatment.

Winter 2004-5 — ARSG requests BLM to explore potential operational entities and funding mechanisms for a new Gladstone area treatment plant. BLM contracts with San Juan County to accomplish this.

2005 — GKMC develops a plan to construct new settling ponds on Anglo Saxon Claim and re-start water treatment plant. GKMC is unable to fund the project.

2005 — After waiting for results of GKC/SJC proceedings through 2004, Sunnyside reclaimed the settling ponds per reclamation plan and a court order to GKMC requiring removal of sediments (sludges). Sunnyside expends a lot of funds for lime to de-acidify the sludges from the period when untreated water was put in the settling ponds.

Spring 2005 — San Juan County sponsors the Targeted Brownfields Initiative for Gladstone treatment possibilities. EPA begins data collection of key mine discharges and stream water quality.

November 2005 — SGC removed AT treatment ponds in accordance with their reclama-

tion permit.

December 2005 — GKMC loses the Gold King Mine Properties including the treatment facility and land area proposed for new settling ponds (on the Anglo Saxon and Harrison MS claims) through foreclosure action by CCTC (Tom Warlick). SJC, as second mortgage holder on the two claims, acquires the Gold King mine property including the Anglo Saxon and Harrison MS.

March 2006 — At the request of ARSG, GKMC applies for AT discharge permit renewal to keep the option open for a new operator to treat discharges in the Gladstone area. Permit renewal was denied.

May 2006 — San Juan County Attorney completes his BLM funded report on Gladstone treatment plant funding and operational potentials.

September 2006 — Targeted Brownfields Water Treatment Evaluation Report released.

September 2006 — Targeted Brownfields reports finalized. Reviewed and discussed by ARSG over several meetings. Potential funding sources explored. Sources for sludge disposal explored. High Density Sludge treatment plant determined to be effectual but problematic due to large sludge generation and disposal costs whether low or high density design. Todd Hennis suggests that a new rotary concentrator designed by Ionic Technologies, Inc might be added to increase efficiency.

Spring 2007 — Discharge from Gold King 7 level breaches the ditch and erodes large portion of the mine dump down into North Fork of Cement Creek. Mr. Hennis has some maintenance on the ditch performed.

November 2007 — Addendum to the Water Treatment Evaluation Report released.

August 2007 — EPA and BLM assist Ionic Technologies in field testing of the rotary concentrator on American Tunnel and Cement Creek water. (Gold King was inaccessible due to length of unit). EPA contributed \$70K and BLM contributed \$41.1K to accomplish this field testing and associated activities such as SAP/QAPP, analytical, and statistical fees. SJC and Colorado Goldfields also contribute to the Ionic Technologies field testing.

2007 — Simon encourages that new and/or innovative water treatment technologies be explored. Several companies participate. (On-going)

2007 — Simon suggests that the ARSG explore developing a pilot demonstration plant designed to test various new and emerging treatment technologies that would serve the nation and eventually would result in a practical technology being chosen for permanent installation at Gladstone. (On going)

June 2008 — Hennis advises ARSG and EPA that Blue Sky Water technologies may have an alternative treatment tech-

nology. He requested E.P.A. to do a split of water samples from the scheduled Ionic Technologies field test but this was not accomplished.

2008-10 — Peter Butler begins exploring various permitting options that might be used to maximize flexibility and minimize permit requirements, including the legal possibilities of combining the discharges and waste streams of the Gladstone area mines owned by BLM, Corporations, and private owners. ARSG continues support of Good Samaritan legislation likely necessary for a collaborative, multi-party, and multi-source treatment facility. (www.goodsamaritaninfo.org)

Fall 2008 — Blue Sky Water Technology (Ionic State Modification or ISM) receives water samples shipped by ARSG from AT and GK 7 level for bench tests. ARSG also shipped water samples from those sources to Compliance Consultants for bench testing their ionic exchange process.

2008 — Field Test of Tusaar's tea bag type treatment of North Fork of Cement Creek using a two phase transition metal immobilization process.

November 2008 — BLM reports on final test results of Ionic Water Rotating Cylinder demonstration run for Gladstone area waters.

February 2009 — Blue Sky Water Technology presents results of AT and GK bench treatment test results from Fall, 2008 AT and Gold King 7 level sample water.

Fall, 2009-2010 — Contacts made with Biotech regarding their new treatment process undergoing initial startup treatment at the Wellington Oro mine near Breckenridge. Biotech is working out kinks and will contact us when ready to provide details and possibilities for use.

Fall 2010 — The Environmental Protection Agency conducted intensive water and soil sampling in the upper Cement Creek area in recent weeks to see if the area may qualify as a Superfund site.

May 2011 — With the Environmental Protection Agency preparing to release its decision on whether a cluster of mines near Gladstone qualifies for Superfund designation, the Animas River Stakeholders Group is approaching a crossroads. And the three coordinators of the group say the ARSG — open to anyone interested in Animas River water quality — is unable to reach a consensus on the possible Superfund designation.

August 2011 — A handful of abandoned mines near Gladstone are responsible for enough contamination of Cement Creek and the Animas River to justify Superfund listing, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, but that won't happen without community support. In a Town Hall meeting Thursday, Aug. 18, EPA officials reviewed data from their fall 2010 sampling of Cement Creek and the Animas River. They say water quality is worsening, with zinc, lead and other heavy metals at elevated levels.

This in turn is being blamed for the loss of three of four trout species since 2005 in the upper Animas.

September 2011 — A brief Environmental Protection Agency presentation on the possibility of using Superfund to address water quality issues on Cement Creek was greeted with some skepticism at Town Hall on Monday night, Sept. 12. Some attending the meeting even questioned whether there was enough data to support the conclusion that there was a serious problem.

October 2011 — Sunnyside Gold Corp. has offered to contribute up to \$6.5 million to address water quality issues in Cement Creek and the Animas River, including up to \$5 million to operate “a cost-effective” treatment plant to process tainted water spewing from mine portals above Silverton. In an Oct. 4 letter to the Animas River Stakeholders Group coordinators and BLM district manager Lori Armstrong, Sunnyside's president, Lauren Roberts, said the company “does not view that a Superfund listing would be constructive and would vigorously contest any alleged liability under Superfund.”

October 2011 — Sunnyside Gold Corp. wants the Silverton Town Council to support its approach for a collaborative process for addressing water quality problems associated with dormant mines above Gladstone. Sunnyside, as a former mine operator in the area, has been identified by the EPA as one of several “potentially responsible parties” that could be held liable for cleaning up the problem if the sites were placed on the National Priorities List. “We're trying to convince you that a collaborative process is the best way,” Larry Perino, Sunnyside Gold Reclamation manager, told the Town Council. “It would be helpful if you let the EPA know what your thoughts are.”

November 2011 — Some members of the Anima River Stakeholders Group are asking the Environmental Protection Agency to “hold its fire” on seeking Superfund listing for Cement Creek mine drainages. And Sunnyside Gold Corp. president Lauren Roberts warned the EPA that it will face a lengthy legal fight if it seeks to nominate the sites for the National Priorities List under the so-called Superfund legislation.

June 2013 — Sunnyside Gold Corp. and the Environmental Protection Agency are conducting talks aimed at a comprehensive settlement to resolve possible water quality liability issues related to past Sunnyside operations in the basin. Mike Holmes of the EPA said the agency has been “working with Sunnyside Gold, exchanging information on settlement issues — liability issues for a long-term settlement.”

January 2014 — San Juan County commissioners have expressed concern that the Animas River Stakeholders Group is not making enough progress in addressing the mine waste that is contaminating Cement Creek.

And a former BLM representative to the stakeholders group has been circulating a petition urging state and federal officials to “undertake more effective action in restoring the health of the Animas River.”

“How long is this going to go on?” asked San Juan County Commissioner Scott Fetchenhier at a board meeting last month. “The levels (of heavy metals) are going back up and it is affecting fish and what the invertebrates they feed on. How long do you allow this to continue before you say enough is enough? We need a County Board Chairman Ernie Kuhlman worried that all he is seeing is “more studies and more studies” as the “quality of water is coming down on Cement Creek.”

And County Commissioner Pete McKay said “it's getting harder to explain when asked what we're doing.”

February 2014 — The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed sealing the Red & Bonita Mine above Gladstone in an effort to stem acid-mine drainage flowing into Cement Creek and ultimately into the Animas River. The action, proposed for 2015, has the potential of greatly improving water quality downstream, with little downside, state and federal environmental officials said last week at a meeting of the Animas River Stakeholders Group. Steven Way, coordinator for the EPA's efforts to address contamination on Cement Creek, said the project may cost up to \$1.5 million and “it's anticipated that the EPA would pay for it.”

April 2014 — Sunnyside Gold Corp. has unveiled a 9-step “Game Plan” to address water quality problems on Cement Creek, pledging up to \$10 million for the “implementation of a preferred solution” by June 2017. The plan was announced in an April 21 letter to the Animas River Stakeholders Group from Larry Perino, reclamation manager for Sunnyside Gold. Sunnyside Gold, which has previously committed \$6.5 million for construction of a treatment plant to reduce metals loading in the creek, said that by 2017, that fund will have grown to \$10 million. And the company said it anticipates “opportunities to garner additional support from other parties.” But Perino reiterated the company's position that its offer is contingent on the company “obtaining satisfactory documentation that it has no liabilities in the District.”

March 2015 — The Environmental Protection Agency is asking Silverton for permission to test the soil in the town's parks, streets and schoolyard to determine if the area is contaminated with heavy metals such as lead, arsenic and cadmium. Summer 2015 — Work being done to bulkhead the Red & Bonita mine.

June 5, 2015 — An EPA crew trying to reopen the Gold King Mine triggers a disaster, as up to 3 million gallons of mine waste pour from the mine portal into Cement Creek.



THE  
SILVERTON  
Standard  
& the Miner  
A NATIONAL  
HISTORIC SITE  
IN JOURNALISM.

“Silverton is  
destined to  
become a city  
with Durango  
as a suburb.”  
– Silverton Standard,  
Sept. 21, 1901



Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., right, visited the Red & Bonita mine site above Gladstone on Saturday, April 28, 2012, to get a first-hand look at the problem of acid-mine drainage in the upper Animas Basin. With him are (from left) Colorado Public Radio reporter Elise Thatcher, Sunnyside Gold Corp. reclamation manager Larry Perino, Animas River Stakeholders Group co-coordinator Steve Fearn, and Ouray County Commissioner Lynn Padgett.

EDITOR, from Page 2

mine portals.

In 2012 the EPA concluded that the cluster of abandoned mine sites leaking toxic, metals-laden water constitutes a threat serious enough to qualify for National Priority Listing under CERCLA (the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act), commonly known as Superfund.

But agency officials said they couldn't move forward without support from local elected officials and the governor's office. Such support was not forthcoming. However, the EPA initiative did manage to pry loose a pledge from Sunnyside Gold Corp. (now owned by Canadian gold giant Kinross) for \$6.5 million to address the issue, provided the firm is left off the hook for any liability. Months later that offer was raised to \$10 million.

Meanwhile, Sunnyside Gold has promised to vigorously oppose Superfund designation.

And, by the way, Sunnyside Gold does not actually own the Gold King Mine itself. That's owned by San Juan Corp., a small privately held firm.

But the cluster of mining claims are all related, at least geologically. In 1996, the American Tunnel (owned by Sunnyside Gold) was sealed. Water began to rise in Bonita Mountain and by 1999 discharge at the Gold King, high above the American Tunnel, began to increase substantially.

So who's responsible? That's where it becomes something like a circular firing squad.

Look, the EPA has already been using CERCLA funding to seal the nearby Red & Bonita Mine.

The real issue is National Priority Listing. That will give the EPA more authority — and of course money — to address the problem with the urgency required.

This catastrophe not only should be, it must be a turning point. Enough is enough.

Suspensions of the EPA run deep in this community. But until I see a more viable alternative for dealing with this huge problem expeditiously, this community in my view must endorse Superfund listing.

But if we're to be on the National Priority List, let's make sure we're on the top of that list. The international outrage over this incident is justifiable and it deserves to be treated accordingly.

I've been to meetings in the last few days where suggestions were made that the EPA's blunder in this case is proof that the agency would just bring more problems if given more authority.

I guess I see it a bit differently. The accident essentially makes the agency one of the "potentially responsible parties" that must make good and fix the problem. It's the EPA's mission at any rate, of course, but after this mess they kind of owe us one. Big time.

The San Juans are a spectacular playground, enjoyed by millions. The mine waste threatening our environment and livelihoods must be addressed — and not five or 10 years from now.

Norma Sanchez, from the county's public health service office, told me on Tuesday that she got a call from someone who heard that we can't take showers in Silverton, owing to the bad water. Of course Silverton's water is completely unaffected by the spill. And visitors here will find little sign of any obvious catastrophe — just a lot of pristine grandeur to enjoy.

But this is a wakeup call. These stunning mountains form the Crown Jewels of the Rockies. It's time we started treating them like it.

Mark Esper is editor and publisher of the Silverton Standard & the Miner.



# THANK You

• Mark Garcia •



## BBQ POTLUCK

AUGUST 22ND • 1PM  
@ KENDALL MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY CENTER

BRING A SIDE DISH TO SHARE

TOWN OF SILVERTON WILL PROVIDE THE  
BURGERS AND HOT DOGS

PLEASE RSVP TO CHRIS TOOKEY: CHRIS@FRONTIER.NET



GOLD KING, from Page 1

The event was triggered when an EPA team was trying to do exploratory work at the Gold King, opening a 14-foot by 10-foot portal high above Cement Creek.

“We’re in a position we’re not used to being in,” EPA regional director Shaun McGrath told an unruly crowd at a meeting in Durango Sunday night, Aug. 9.

And on Monday, at a meeting with the Silverton Town Council, the EPA’s assistant regional director, Martin Hestmark, said “this event has redoubled our commitment to this community and extends our commitment to a much broader community, including New Mexico, Utah and the Navajo Nation.”

San Juan County Road Supervisor Louis Girodo estimated \$20,000 of damage was done to County Road 110 as two large culverts took a beating from the flash flood.

“We’re lucky they didn’t wash completely out on us,” Girodo said. The culverts became clogged with debris from the blowout and that may have slowed the water down as it approached Silverton.

“The EPA says they’re going to pay for everything,” Girodo said.

And the EPA has also established a process through which businesses impacted by the emergency can seek reimbursement.

**Initial survey shows little impact on aquatic life in river**

Mountain Studies Institute Executive Director Marcy Bidwell said her nonprofit organization responded quickly to the emergency.

“As soon as we heard about the incident we grabbed bottles and started sticking them in the river,” Bidwell said, to sample water quality both before the plume arrived in the Durango area and after.

“Most of the insects survived that first plume,” Bidwell said. And she displayed charts that show pH levels lowering since the surge passed through Durango.

An image of kayakers in a pool of ugly, mustard-colored water near Baker’s Bridge went viral, and along with the fact that it was the EPA that caused the spill quickly made the disaster a national, and even international story.

And Silverton officials have been criticized for opposing Superfund designation to address the long-standing problem.

On Monday, Aug. 10, County Board Chairman Ernie Kuhlman said he is still skeptical of Superfund listing to address the issues.

“Being a Superfund site retards mining for one thing and tourism for another thing,” Kuhlman said. “There’s a lot of people who don’t want to go into a contaminated area.”

But Kuhlman added that “I have to look at it first and see what’s happening,” given the current crisis.

Kuhlman said that in the meantime the EPA has to be held accountable for causing the immediate disaster.

“If it was a private company they would have been tarred and feathered. The government should be just as responsible as



Logs and other debris are seen jammed up the culvert on County Road 110 at Gladstone on Aug. 5 when the Gold King mine portal blew out. Road supervisor Louis Girodo said an avalanche knocked down a lot of trees on North Cement Creek in 2005. When the 3 million gallons of tainted water from the mine swept down the gulch on Aug. 5, the trees were carried along.

any citizen,” Kuhlman said.

Hestmark said more than 30 EPA employees and contractors are working out of Durango and a similar number out of Farmington to monitor water quality.

“As you can imagine there are incredible numbers of samples being taken along hundreds of miles of river,” Hestmark said. “We’re working on developing risk screening criteria so people can understand what those numbers mean.”

And Hestmark reiterated that the agency will be “supporting Silverton and San Juan County for its response costs.”

But Hestmark also pointed out that the Colorado Parks and Wildlife set out sentinel fish in cages in the Animas before the toxic plume passed through, and of 108 fish, only one died and it’s not yet clear if that was related to the spill.

Those sentinel fish have since been removed from the Animas and are being studied.

**What went wrong?**

EPA officials, meanwhile, were trying to explain what went wrong and what their plan is to address the spill.

“We were trying to gain access to the top of the adit,” Hestmark said.

Hestmark and local officials toured the Gold King Mine portal Monday afternoon.

“These mines are not stable,” Hestmark said. He speculated that if left alone “this was going to go, no matter what.”

Hayes Griswold, the EPA’s on-scene coordinator, continued the narrative. He said that when his crew arrived to open the mine adit, water was flowing from the bottom of the earthen plug at rates varying from 70 to 200 gallons per minute.

He said a backhoe was excavating material from the top of the portal.

“We saw a little spurt of water. I pulled the hoe out and looked. About that time red water started coming out over the top.”

The EPA was trying to gain access to the portal to pump water from behind the blockage.

“We didn’t know it was under

**“When it got to a certain point we noticed, quite a bit above the adit, clear water starting to show. We started to back equipment away because we didn’t know what was going on. The water started to turn red, showed pressure and blew out the unconsolidated material — timbers and rocks.”**

**— Hayes Griswold, EPA onsite coordinator at the Gold King Mine**

pressure,” Griswold said.

“This mine didn’t flow until the American Tunnel was plugged,” Griswold said. With the huge mine pool long gone and now on its way to Lake Powell, Griswold said the flow on Monday was down to about 200 gallons per minute.

But the damage has been done.

“We had treatment ponds in place but those were overwhelmed,” Hestmark added.

“We knew there was a pool back there. We were pulling material down from on top of the adit,” Griswold said. “When it got to a certain point we noticed, quite a bit above the adit, clear water starting to show. We started to back equipment away because we didn’t know what was going on. The water started to turn red, showed pressure and blew out the unconsolidated material — timbers and rocks.”

No one was injured, but an EPA-owned Chevrolet suburban was badly damaged.

Initial estimates of the volume of water was in the neighborhood of 1 million gallons but based on data from a gaging station on Cement Creek that was subsequently revised up to 3 million gallons.

“After touring the site today, it’s very evident that a significant portion of the mine dump went down with that water,” Hestmark added.

Nancy Agro, attorney for San Juan Corp., which owns the mine, said that “upon suspending work last year, the (EPA) backfilled the portal to the mine. While the USEPA was removing the backfill from the portal to the Gold King Mine to

continue its investigation this year, the plug blew out releasing contaminated water behind the backfill into the Animas River.”

San Juan County Sheriff Bruce Conrad told EPA officials that the agency should have a more effective emergency response process in place.

“On Wednesday this town was not informed at all that a wall of water was coming our way,” Conrad said. “You guys were up there and moving material and poking holes.”

Hestmark responded that communications was a challenge, particularly with the crew cut off by the blowout.

“The event washed out the road. People had to walk out.”

And Hestmark said the agency is conducting a review of the incident.

“We recognize we have lessons to learn. More contingencies need to be thought about to be better prepared for events like this.”

**EPA finds critics and supporters in town**

Silverton resident Kevin Baldwin was not accepting the EPA explanation.

“You knew there was water in that mountain. You knew the plug was just sediments and timber. It sounds to me like you went up to the portal completely unprepared. It was reckless, in my mind.”

Melody Skinner, who lives along Cement Creek, was more forgiving.

“I understand this is an error of some kind that you’ll examine down to a gnat’s ass. I want to thank you. You’re moving forward and I appreciate anything everyone from the EPA

has ever done.”

Bill Dodge of Silverton also thanked the agency for its efforts.

“The key thing we’re interested in tonight is that the EPA is committed to being a partner and to make sure that this does not happen again.”

Hestmark suggested that more local expertise may be enlisted as the agency moves forward.

“Maybe there are people in town who know a lot more about abandoned adits than we do.”

Steve Fearn, co-coordinator for the Animas River Stakeholders Group, the collaborative effort to address water quality issues in the basin, said the EPA has been “a very good partner with us over the last 20 years. The work they were doing on (Gold King) Level 7 was a project we supported, also. We want to know where that water is coming from as part of a plan about how to deal with it.”

Fearn, a mining engineer with much experience in the area, said “it’s a very complicated district with very complicated problems. No one really has the answers. The important thing is that we move forward together and continue to work together. We’d like to have simple solutions — one-shot solutions — but they’re just not out there. That much we know.”

**Town, county officials mobilize for the emergency**

Silverton officials they are taking steps to address the crisis.

Silverton Area Chamber of Commerce Director DeAnne Gallegos said “we as a community are coming up with a comprehensive plan to get the word out that Silverton is open and safe and fun to come to.”

She urged EPA officials to help spread the message that the town is perfectly safe for visitors.

Local officials are also working with state and federal agencies to reopen the Animas River to recreational and other uses as soon as conditions permit.



## in brief

### One more Tuesday demo offered by Silverton Threads

The Silverton Threads group, local quilters, seamstresses', knitters and crocheters, are again sponsoring another free demonstrations to the public on the next three Tuesdays.

On Aug. 18, it will be a surprise! Set aside your Tuesday to join us to learn a new craft.

All presentations at at 7 p.m. at Kendall Mountain Community Center.

We strongly invite those of you (male or female) who have a craft that can be taught or shared. Please call Barb at 387-5606 if you would like to share your craft.

### Brass band festival brings music to town Aug. 14-16

The 33rd annual Great Western Rocky Mountain Brass Band Festival will be held Aug. 14-16 at the Silverton School gym.

The Festival Band, conducted by Paul Maybery, will be giving free concerts throughout the weekend.

Concerts are scheduled for Friday, Aug. 14 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 15 at noon and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 16 at noon. The music will include overtures, fantasies, potpourris, serenades and marches.

### 4th Movie Festival lineup: 'Ticket to Tomahawk,' 'D&RG'

The fourth annual Silverton Western Movie Festival is scheduled for Labor Day Weekend, with movies on Friday and Saturday night, Sept. 4-5.

This year's lineup:  
• Friday, Sept. 4 — "Denver & Rio Grande," the 1952 movie chronicling the conflict and struggle to build the railroad.

• Saturday, Sept. 5 — Back by popular demand, "A Ticket to Tomahawk," the funnest film ever made in Silverton! The Tomahawk & Western Railroad needs to deliver a passenger to Tomahawk, Colo., by Sept. 5, 1876, to keep its charter. And this showing is scheduled for that fateful day of Sept. 5!

The Silverton Western Movie Festival is a benefit for the Silverton Standard newspaper.

Admission is by donation only. Shows start at 7 p.m. both Friday and Saturday night.

### All School Reunion Labor Day weekend

The Silverton High School All-School Reunion is scheduled for Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4-7, with most events taking place at the school.

Sign in is Friday afternoon with a viewing of historic class photos. A happy hour and special gatherings for classes will be conducted in the evening.

On Saturday, registration continues at the school. A special 2 p.m. matinee of "A Ticket To Tomahawk" will be shown for the reunion.

And Saturday evening, an elegant Night at the Museum is planned. On Sunday an ice-cream social will be held at the gym from 1-3 p.m.

Call (303) 364-1234 or send an e-mail to pgv@mindspring.com and we will try to answer them.

## Clean Greene



Mark Esper/Silverton Standard & the Miner  
Sheriff Bruce Conrad, left, and Fire Chief Gilbert Archuleta, right, retrieve fire hoses after Greene Street was finally rinsed down to get rid of all the dust and grime on Thursday morning, Aug. 6. The Grand Imperial Hotel donated the \$1,000 needed for the project, and the firefighters donated their time.

### San Juan County Sheriff's Office blotter

## No parking on tracks; mine blows out

By Sheriff Bruce Conrad

**Aug. 3** — Continued to receive multiple complaints of a noise disturbance over the weekend, Town Hall is working to standardize and publish the proper procedures for gaining approval to set off fireworks. Much paperwork. Began to initiate a search & rescue response; subject returned unharmed.

**Aug. 4** — Prisoner transport from Durango to San Juan County Court. Provided court security for the monthly docket. VIN verification. Ambulance assist, helicopter landing zone established on Molas Pass. Issued a verbal warning to 2 OHVs with unlicensed drivers. Issued a written warning to 2 OHVs parked where prohibited. Issued another written warning to an OHV parked where prohibited and by a fire hydrant. Received a report of an OHV where prohibited, unable to locate.

**Aug. 5** — Another self-resolving search & rescue call. Served civil papers. Responded to a vehicle stuck in roadway and assisted with a tow. Took information for a federal complaint to be filed against the driver of a U.S. government vehicle doing conservation and preservation work, who thought it appropriate to drive off a county road and across the tundra to take a wildlife inventory. While coming back down the Irene, noticed the river did not look right upstream, and looked normal downstream. Further investigation revealed a 2-foot wall

of orange mine waste water and debris heading toward Silverton, beginning our next chapter of, "What your government can do for you." Responded to a motorcycle crash with injuries, while enroute to responding to an EPA vehicle damaged by the floodwaters. Issued a verbal warning for passing on the right. Issued a verbal warning to a commercial vehicle unloading in a lane of traffic. Issued a verbal warning to an unlicensed driver operating an OHV. Issued a parking citation to a vehicle blocking an alley. Issued a verbal warning to an OHV with flashing red and blue lights; yep that's illegal, and for good reason. Issued another verbal to an unlicensed operator of an OHV. Issued a \$75 citation for operating an OHV where prohibited. Traffic trailer maintenance. Responded to a fire alarm at a downtown apartment building; alarm was triggered by children, muy mal crocodillos.

**Aug. 6** — Assisted with fire department street wash. Received call of a stray dog in the county; informed complainant if they were to stop feeding the local four legger, it may stop coming by. An "anonymous" caller, DEMANDED the vehicles on Greene Street be towed to facilitate the street wash. Several vehicles were ticketed and none presented an issue for street washing. Continued work on resolving the abandoned trailer on the north east side of town, an appropriate plan is in motion to have the eyesore removed. Received many calls of concern

regarding the Gold King mine accident. Assisted ambulance with an OHV accident occurring just outside of San Juan County. Received lost property. Returned lost dog. Assisted a stranded motorist. Was inundated with an obscene number of calls from press members far and near. Responded to a harassment call at a local restaurant; victim did not wish to press charges, but a protection order was obtained and served to the offender. Responded to another stuck jumper at adrenaline falls, the 13-year-old finally just jumped in the dark; Darwin works in mysterious ways. Downtown foot patrol.

**Aug. 7** — Issued a verbal warning for disregarding a stop sign. Followed up with questions regarding the recently issued restraining order. All officers responded to an assistance request from La Plata Sheriff's Office to help apprehend an attempted homicide suspect traveling through San Juan County; suspect was taken into custody in Ouray County. Issued a verbal warning for parking where prohibited — on the tracks; you do have to give Darwin's sense of humor a nod. Assisted with finding lost property. Issued a verbal warning to a vehicle left in an alley. Issued a parking citation for parking where prohibited. Assisted a motorist locked out of their vehicle. Received lost property. Assisted an overly intoxicated person to their residence.

**Aug. 8** — Issued a verbal warning for speeding in town.

Enjoyed some Hardrockers Holidays. Firearms training. Issued a \$75 citation to an OHV where prohibited. Downtown foot patrol. Missing an officer's daily report for this day.

**Aug. 9** — Search & rescue from San Juan and La Plata, ambulance, the Sheriff's Office, and the Alpine Ranger responded to a bicyclist with a medical emergency on the Colorado Trail above Little Molas Lake, resuscitation efforts failed to revive the gentleman. Attended a Durango meeting regarding the Gold King Mine accident. Downtown foot patrol.

There have been many concerns and questions about what the mine accident means for visitors and residents. Many of the answers will not be known in the short term, but our drinking water was never at any risk and is as good as always. The campgrounds and activities are open and pose no threats. We have advised that you should refrain from using Cement Creek and the Animas below the confluence until the EPA deems those waters safe. The upswing of this event is the opportunity for us to come together and deal with these issues. We should all be proud of the work being done to protect and strengthen our community by a whole host of qualified and caring individuals with a "WE over ME" mentality.

Information about Gold King blowout: [communications@silverton.co.us](mailto:communications@silverton.co.us)

## Our ads get fast results!

An ad for a lost dog was placed last week, and on Monday, the owner reported the dog had returned of its own accord! Call 387-5477 to place an ad. E-mail [editor@silvertonstandard.com](mailto:editor@silvertonstandard.com)



# h ospital in rehab



Loren Lew mortars bricks into place in a small addition put on the back of the old Miners Union Hospital to accommodate an entrance to the new elevator which will be installed.

Mark Esper/Silverton Standard & the Miner

WEATHER, from Page 2

before dawn.

Now a new day filled with new hope bursts forth with color in clouds on high. All of this after thunder and lightning early last evening. Then the satisfying and relaxing cadence of gentle rain, 0.26" measureable, which brings us to 1.27" thus far in August.

More monsoon moisture likely with build and burst convective activity likely this weather week.

Plenty of sunshine burns off the fog as young swallows dart and dive to the detriment of flies and mosquitoes. Life is so good that I can't keep from smiling — an act of universal communication and universal healing.

No blame. No shame. Just like another act, that being the Good Samaritan Act. Let's go for it!

**Funeral Monday for Manuelita Salazar**

Mass of Christian Burial for Manuelita Salazar will be conducted Monday, Aug. 17 at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Silverton.

Interment will be at Hillside Cemetery.

Lunch will be provided by the Brown Bear.

## Celebration Aug. 22 for Red Mtn. land

The public is invited to celebrate a major mining claims acquisition and donation project that will preserve historic sites and landscapes in Ouray and San Juan Counties.

The Red Mountain Heritage Celebration will take place at the scenic Red Mountain Mining Interpretive Overlook on Highway 550, Saturday, Aug. 22 at 10 a.m. Guided tours of several of the newly acquired claims will begin at 11 am.

The event will include brief presentations on the history of the Red Mountain Mining District and the role of the Ridgway-based Trust for Land Restoration (TLR), which has facilitated the recent purchase of 120 mining claims, which will be preserved for their scenic beauty and historical significance.

Bob Risch, Chair of the Red Mountain Task Force and current TLR Board Member, will describe the goals and accomplishments of the Red Mountain Project. Don Paulson, curator of the Ouray County Historical Museum, will describe the history of the Red Mountain District.

Following a ceremonial exchange of deeds, Paulson and Risch will guide short tours of the

Corkscrew Gulch Turntable and the American Girl Mine.

The ceremony also will unveil the newly revitalized TLR, an established local land trust whose mission is to conserve and protect significant scenic and historic landscapes and sites in the San Juan Mountains.

TLR acquired sixteen mining claims in Ouray County with the help of the Toan-O'Brien Foundation, a private foundation based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Silverton resident Ryan Bennett acquired the remaining 104, all located in San Juan County.

TLR will donate fourteen of the mining claims to the United States Forest Service, and donate two of the claims to the Ouray County Historical Society. Bennett will retain ownership of the 104 claims he acquired. He voluntarily imposed deed restrictions on those properties to allow for future mining but restrict residential development.

The two claims being donated to the historical society include historically significant sites of the Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad grade and ruins of the Corkscrew Gulch Turntable. It is reputed to

be the only turntable in the country ever built on the main line of a railroad, according to Paulson.

"The Silverton Railroad's Corkscrew Gulch Turntable is an icon of railroading in south-west Colorado," he said. "It was built in 1889 by Otto Mears, the Pathfinder of the San Juan. The Ouray County Historical Society's Board of Directors is proud to take ownership of and protect this historic site for the enjoyment of generations to come."

The opportunity arose from the largest (over \$5 billion) environmental contamination settlement in U.S. history and a court-ordered sale. Tronox Corporation, the polluter's spin-off company, held contaminated sites throughout the country.

Fortunately the sites being acquired in Ouray and San Juan Counties were evaluated and found to be clean, according to Willits.

"This is a great deal for the public on both sides of Red Mountain Pass," said Pat Willits, TLR's acquisition of the mining claims is a first step in the organization's effort to carry on and expand the legacy of the Red Mountain Project.

Under the leadership of Risch, the Red Mountain Project in 1998 began a public-private partnership with stakeholders in the San Juan Mountains, which eventually acquired more than 10,000 acres of mining claims in Ouray, San Juan and San Miguel Counties and returned them to the public domain.

"TLR is proud to have taken up the reins of the Red Mountain Project, re-engage our friends and partners, and develop new alliances" said Willits. "This is a great project which furthers our mission to conserve and protect the places we cherish and hold dear in the San Juan Mountain high country. This project certainly helps do that."

The public can learn more about this important land acquisition and enjoy spectacular mountain scenery at the Red Mountain Heritage Celebration. The Interpretive Overlook is located across from the Idarado Mine on U.S. 550, 12 miles south of Silverton and just north of Milepost 82. Elected officials and community leaders are expected to attend.

For more information, call the Ouray County Historical Society, (970) 325-4576.

Silverton's Step Back in Time Celebration is on! Sept. 18-20!

### Upcoming Events!

- **Aug. 14-16** — Great Western Rocky Mountain Brass Band Festival, Silverton School Gym
- **Aug. 13-16** — True West Railfest, Durango and Silverton
- Aug. 29** — Dillon's Run, Kendall Mountain Recreation Area
- Sept. 4-5** — Fourth Annual Silverton Western Movie Festival, Silverton School Performing Arts Center
- Sept. 4-7** — Silverton All School Reunion
- Sept. 12-13** — Silverton Quilt Show and Sale, Silverton School gym
- Sept. 18-20** — Step Back in Time. [www.silvertonstepbackintime.com](http://www.silvertonstepbackintime.com)

- August 13-16**
  - Railfest.
- August 14-16**
  - Great Rocky Mountain Brass Band Festival, Silverton School Gym.
- August 14-20**
  - Annual 1-2-3-6-Day Run and 1,000-Mile Challenge.
- Monday, Aug. 24**
  - **Silverton Town Council**, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall.
- Wednesday, Aug. 26**
  - **San Juan County Board of Commissioners**, 6:30 p.m., County Courthouse.
- Ongoing**
  - **Belly Dance at Silverton**

- Soulworks:** Tuesdays, 5:15-6:15 p.m. Belly Dance 2 (w/ instructor approval); 6:30-7:30 p.m., Belly Dance Flow / Drills (alternating weeks, all levels) Wednesdays, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Zumba; Thursdays, 5:15-6:15 p.m., Zumba. All are at Silverton Soulworks and prices are \$12 drop in or \$10 with a Caldera 10 Punch Pass.
  - **Salsa classes** Wednesday nights, 6:30 p.m., at Soulworks. For more information, contact Noah Chutz at [nchutz@gmail.com](mailto:nchutz@gmail.com).
  - **Silverton Threads Quilting Club**, 7 p.m., Tuesdays,
- Kendall Mountain Community Center. All interested in quilting, crochet, knitting, and crafts are invited.
  - **San Juan County Historical Society Archive** — Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  - **Blair Street Historic District Association**, 5 p.m., first Wednesday of each month, Empire Street Bunkhouse.
  - **Alcoholics Anonymous** meets in Silverton every Wednesday at 7 p.m. For locations, questions or help, call (888) 333-9649.

- Spiritual Events**
  - **Church of Christ**, Sundays: Bible class, 8 a.m.; service, 9 a.m.; and Sunday Bible discussion, 5 p.m., (970) 946-7648.
  - **St. Patrick's Catholic Church**, Father Nat Foshage, Mass, 5 p.m. Saturdays and Wednesdays, 1005 Reese St., 325-4373.
  - **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**, Spike Bond, president, Sunday services: sacrament meeting, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; priesthood, 11 a.m., 727 Greene St., 387-5338.
  - **First Congregational**

**Church of Silverton**, Sue Kurtz, moderator. Sunday service 9 a.m. All are welcome. 1070 Reese St. (970) 387-5759. e-mail: [silvertonnuce@aol.com](mailto:silvertonnuce@aol.com) Website: [silverton-church.org](http://silverton-church.org).

- **Silverton Church on the Hill**, 11th and Snowden, Pastor Mark Lawson, (970) 387-5215. Sunday KSJC (92.5 FM) 8-10 a.m., Christian music, devotional and sermon; Bible study, 9 a.m.; Children's Sunday School at 10:15; 10:15 a.m. regular service; Wednesday night prayer/fellowship, 7 p.m.
- **Word of Life Fellowship**, Pastor Jim Greenfield, Sunday service starts at 9 a.m., 1706 Empire St. 387-5893.

## Mountain Happenings



# hardroCkers!

## Hardrockers Holidays results Wheelbarrow Race

<b>Men</b>		
1st	CHRIS SCOTT	39.63
2nd	RICHARD WEBER	41.60
3rd	RICHARD HOTT	42.36
<b>Women</b>		
1st	STACEY BARKER	45.88
2nd	TARA RHOADES	50.82
3rd	AMY SCOTT	51.85

## Handmucking

<b>Men</b>		
1st	GILBERT MEADOR	32.88
2nd	GRADY COLBY	38.41
3rd	CHRIS SCOTT	40.68
<b>Women</b>		
1st	LiErin WILSON	13.04
2nd	STACY BARKER	14.90
3rd	SHELLY KUHLMAN	18.43

## Machine mucking

<b>Men</b>		
1st	ROY ANDREAN	58.90
2nd	ROY PERINO	1:00.71
3rd	TERRY RHOADES	1:02.31
<b>Women</b>		
1st	LiErin WILSON	1:22.10
2nd	SHELLY KUHLMAN	1:35.10
3rd	DOROTHY McCARTY	2:05.79

## Novice machine mucking

<b>Men</b>		
1ST	RICHARD HOTT	1:38.64
2nd	CHAD KIBEL	4:27.36
3rd	KEVIN BALDWIN	4:56.71
<b>Women</b>		
1st	CHRIS SCOTT	3 13/16
2nd	GILBERT MEADOR	3 ½
3RD	ANTHONY BRANSON	3 7/16

## Handsteeling

<b>Women</b>		
1st	STACY BARKER	2 7/16
2nd	LiErin WISON	2 1/16
3rd	JUDY KUHLMAN	1 9/16

## Machine drilling

<b>Men</b>		
1st	CLIFFORD & AMOS JARAMILLO	5:03.58
2nd	CHRIS SCOTT & AARON REEDER	5:07.60
3rd	TERRY & TRENT RHOADES	5:32.04
<b>Novice</b>		
1st	CODY McClANAHAN & LARRY GREEN	5:14.57
2nd	MARILYNN YABNEY &CHRIS SCOTT	7:41.85

## Singleman drilling

1st	GRADY COLBY	2:02.62
2nd	TRENT DAVES	2:07.00
3rd	LARRY CLARK	2:08.46

## Single jacking

<b>Men</b>		
1st	GRADY COLBY	4"
2nd	RICHARD WEBER	2 1/8
3RD	ANTHONY BRANSON	2"
<b>Women</b>		
1st	SHELLY KUHLMAN & LiErin WISON	1 7/8
2nd	KAYLA McClANAHAN	1 7/16
3rd	STACY BARKER	1 3/16

## Spike driving

<b>Men</b>		
1st	CHRIS SCOTT	43:77
2nd	RICHARD WEBER	55:20
3rd	CHAD KIBEL	1:15.35
<b>Women</b>		
1st	AMY SCOTT	26:54
2nd	LiErin WISON	27:82
3rd	TARA RHOADES	33:61

## Pentathlon

<b>Men</b>		
1st	CHRIS SCOTT	315 POINTS
2nd	GILBERT MEADOR	295 POINTS
3rd	RICHARD WEBER	280 POINTS
<b>Women</b>		
1st	LiErin WILSON	350 POINTS
2nd	STACY BARKER	345 POINTS
3rd	AMY SCOTT	295 POINTS

## Horseshoes

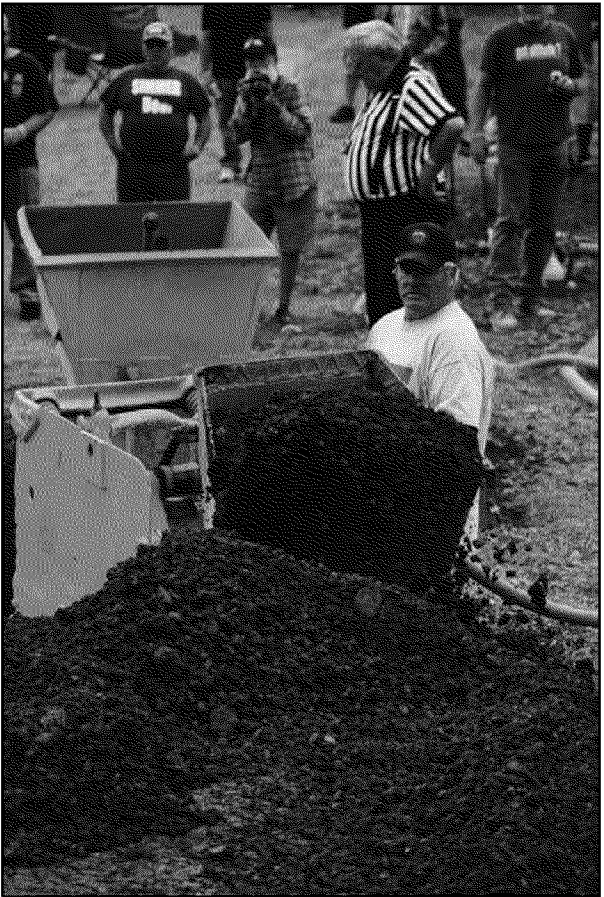
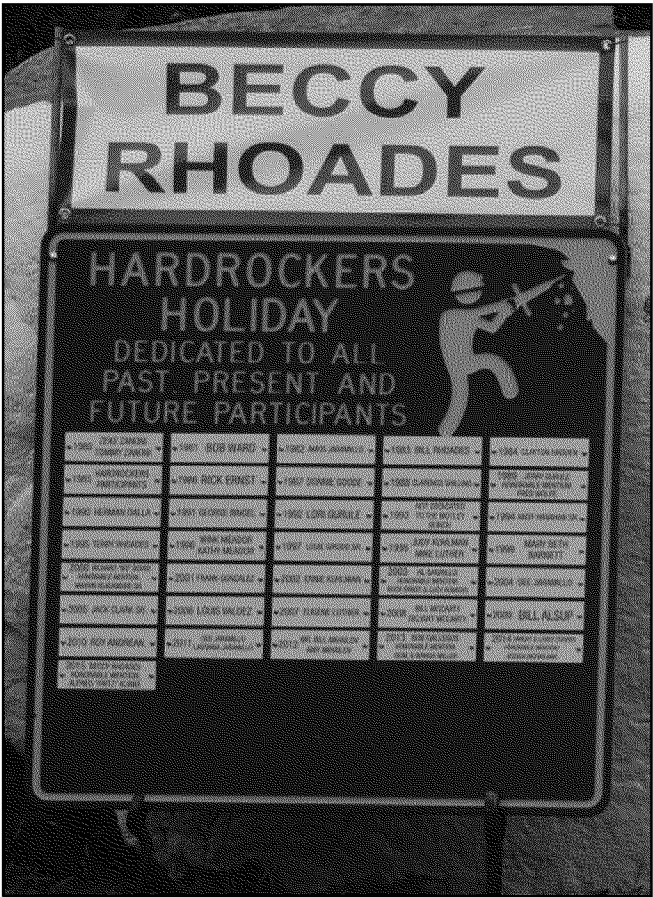
1st	AMOS & DALE JARAMILLO
2nd	STEVE & DEREK DUCE
3rd	ADAM KUNZ & BILLY HILL

## Tug-o-war

<b>Men's lightweight</b>		
1st	AZTEC EXCAVATION	
2nd	FIDDLER'S GREEN	
<b>Men's heavyweight</b>		
1st	NO NAMES	
2nd	THE "OLE" HUNDRED COOT'S	
<b>Women's lightweight</b>		
1st	DICK & JANES	
2nd	GET LOADED	
3rd	FIDDLER'S GREEN	
<b>Women's heavyweight</b>		
1st	DICK & JANES	
2nd	McCARTY BUNCH	



Criss Furman/SilvertonStandard & the Miner  
TaraRhoades hangs on to LiErin Wilson as the Get Loaded tug-o-war team pulls hard.



Bill Alsip/SilvertonStandard & the Miner  
LEFT: A new plaque lists the names of those honored in the dedication of Hardrockers Holidays, with Beccy Rhoades added this year.  
RIGHT: Terry Rhoades machine mucking.



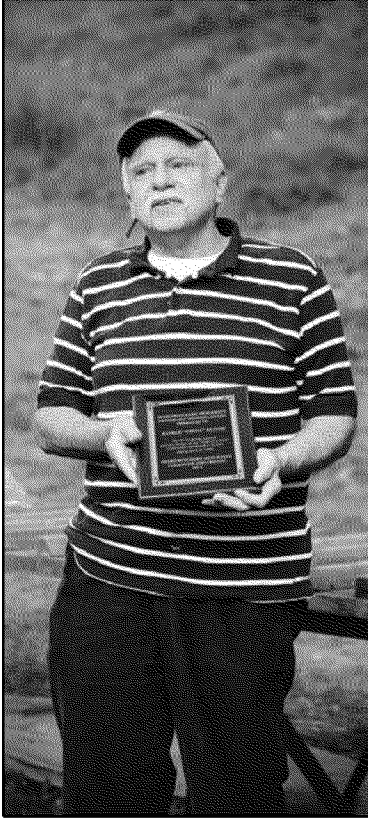
The crowd enjoys the tug-o-war competition.  
  
Jerry Lyle/  
Silverton  
Standard  
& the Miner

See RESULTS, Page 7

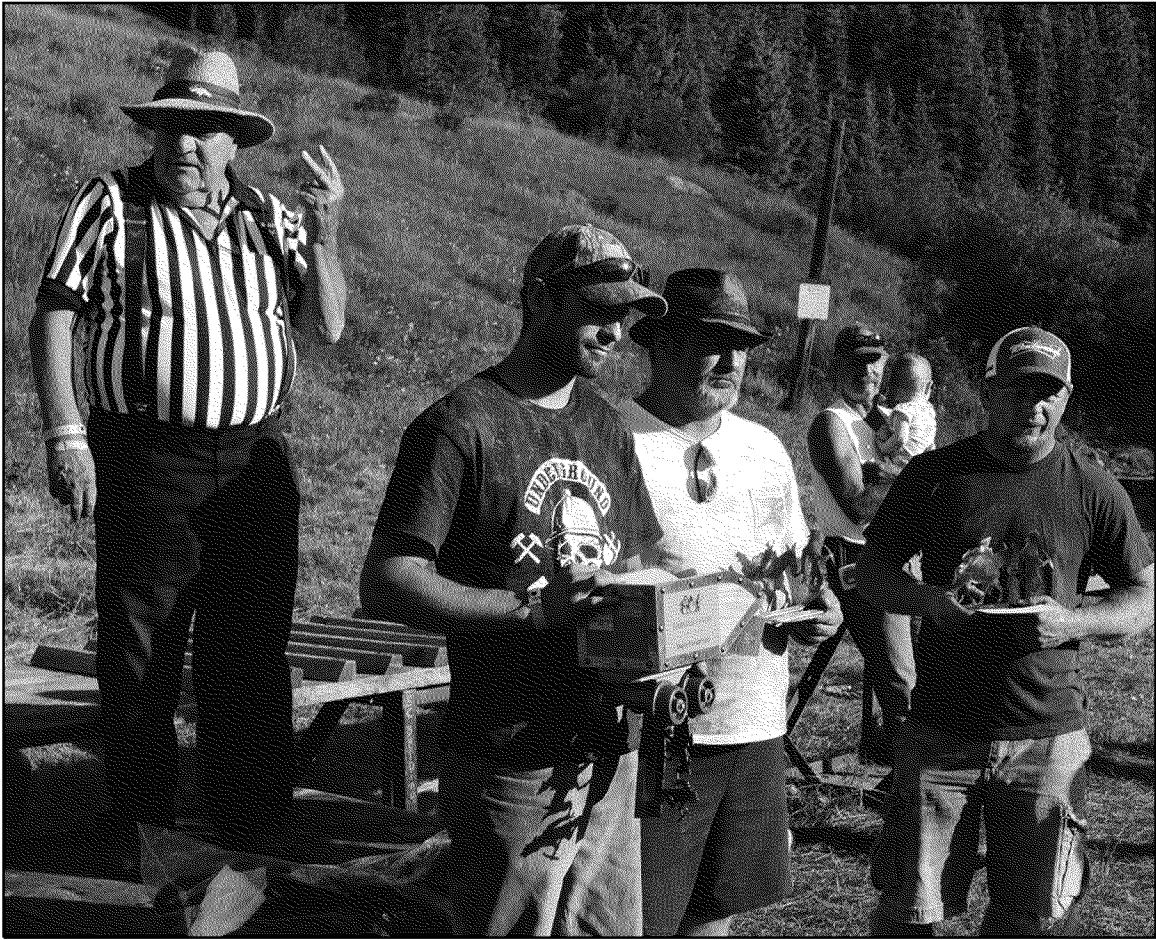




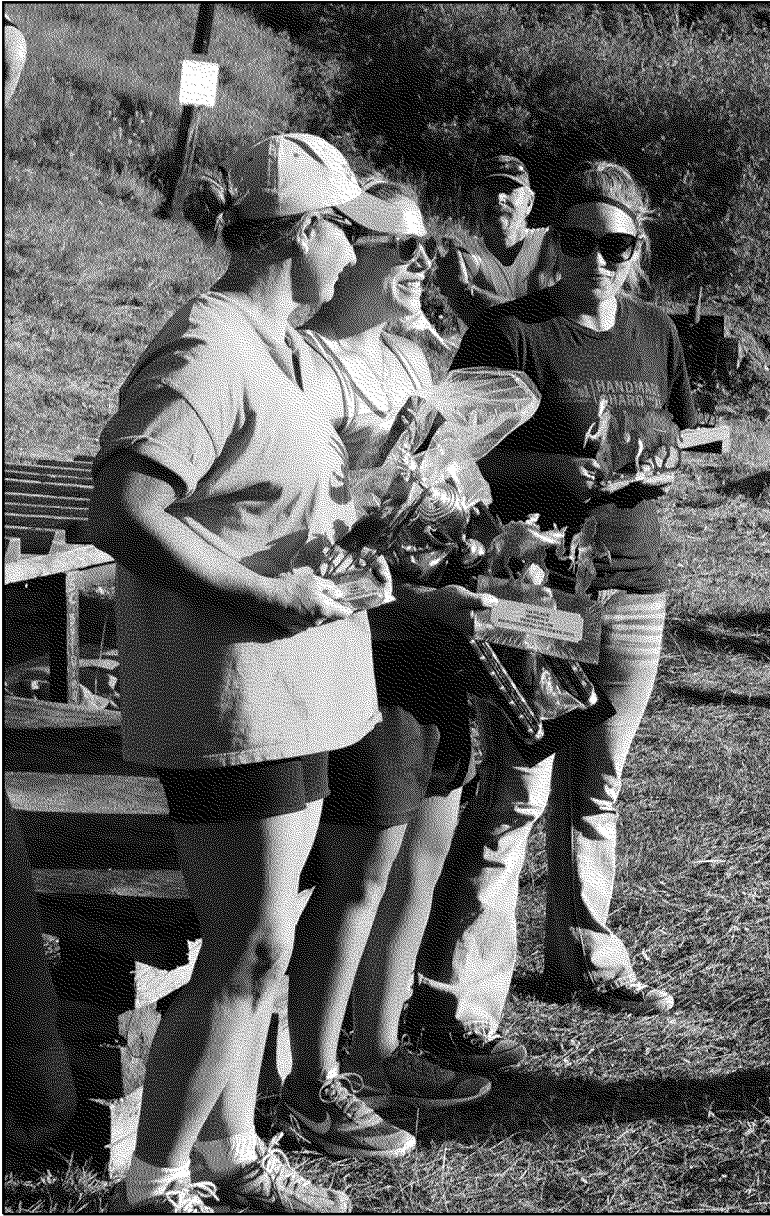
LEFT: Clifford Jaramillo holds the drill as Amos Jaramillo drives it in in the Hardrockers Holidays drilling competition.  
BELOW: Fritz Klinke of Silverton is honored by the Hardrockers Holidays for his efforts to preserve Silverton's heritage.



Criss Furman/Silverton Standard & the Miner

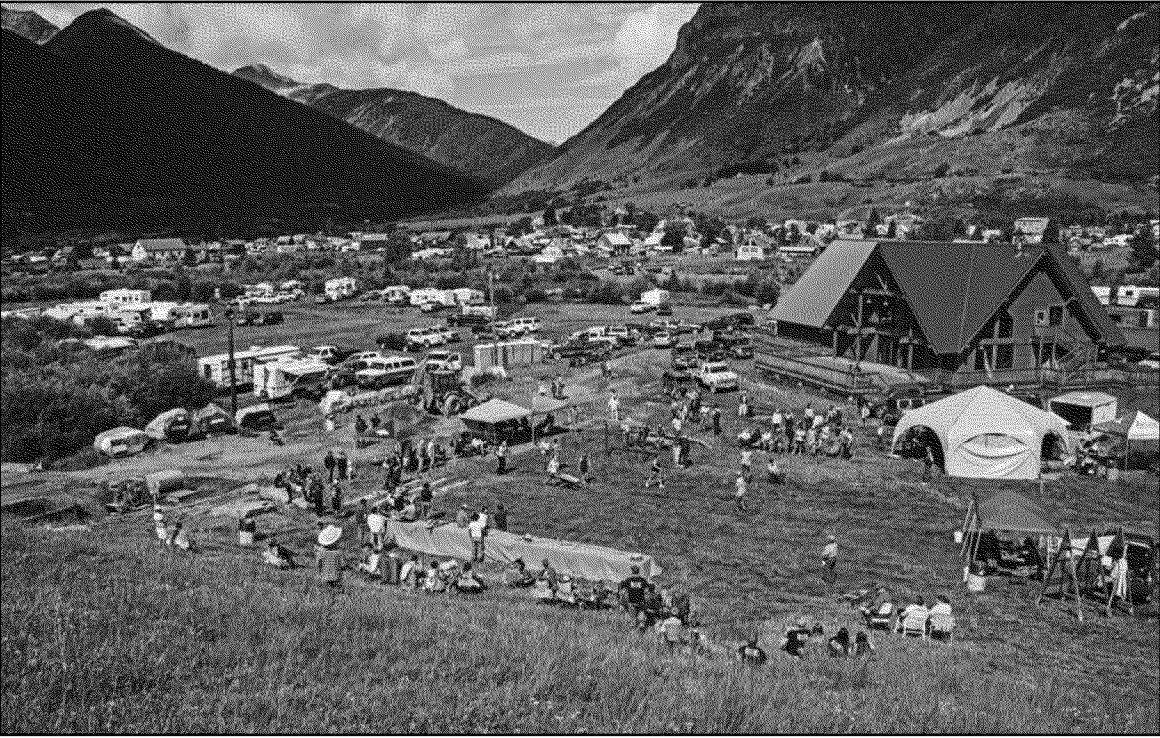


Bill Alsup/Silverton Standard & the Miner



Bill Alsup/Silverton Standard & the Miner

Above: Women's Pentathlon winners: From left are, (second place) Stacy Barker, (firstplace) LiErin Wilson, and (third place) Amy Scott.  
ABOVE RIGHT: Men's Pentathlon winners: From left are firstplace winner Chris Scott, second place winner Gilbert Meader, and third place winner Richard Weber.



Ray Dileo/Silverton Standard & the Miner

- ARM WRESTLING**  
WOMEN'S OPEN DIVISION  
1st Stephanie Story  
2nd LiErin Wilson  
3rd Natasha Elmy  
  
MEN'S 186 CLASS  
1st Jess Simpson  
2nd Chris Scott  
3rd Shawn Wilkins

- MEN'S 206 CLASS  
1st Ben Bledsoe  
2nd Shayne Christianson  
  
MEN'S 236 & OVER CLASS  
1st Ben Bledsoe  
2nd Dylan Hendricks  
3rd Jess Simpson



KIDS EVENTS WITH  
A FEW 3rd & 4th  
GENERATION  
MINERS  
THROWN IN!

AGE 5 AND UNDER:  
SHOE SEARCH  
1st Wyatt Fleigle  
2ND Bridger Jaramillo  
3rd Kamryn Maisel

PEANUT RACE  
1st Kylee Rhoades  
2nd Bridger Jaramillo  
3rd Chloe Tuff

HIGHGRADE HUNT  
1st Bridger Jaramillo  
2nd Lylee Rhoades  
3rd Kamryn Maisel

SOFT RING TOSS  
1st Kylee Rhoades  
2nd Kamryn Maisel  
3rd Bridger Jaramillo

HAND MUCKING  
1st Wyatt Fleigle  
2nd Kylee Rhoades

3rd Kamryn Maisel

AGES 6-9 YEARS OLD  
SACK RACE  
1st Ty Tuff  
2nd Wesley Rhoades  
3rd Christopher Kunz

3 LEGGED RACE  
1ST Conner Hill/Ty Tuff  
2nd Marek Jaramillo/Cody Kuhlman Branson  
3rd Wesley Rhoades/Christopher

EGG TOSS  
1st Connor Hill/Destiny Lawley  
2nd Cody Kuhlman Branson/  
Marek Jaramillo  
3rd Rylan Jaramillo/Calista Mesich

SOFT BALL TOSS  
1ST Ty Tuff  
2nd Connor Hill  
3rd Tie-Wesley Rhoades/Christopher Kuntz

HAND MUCKING  
1st Connor Hill  
2nd Ty Tuff  
3rd Cody Kuhlman Branson

HORSESHOES

1st Rylan Jaramillo  
2nd Marek Jaramillo  
3rd Christopher Kunz  
AGES 10-13 YEARS OLD  
3 LEGGED RACE  
1st Stephan Mihailov/Jonathan Bennet  
2nd Maddi(Clark) Meenan/Aleksa Mihailov  
3rd Kyra Maxfield/Selene Rhoades

WHEELBARROW RACE  
1st Jonathan Bennet  
2nd Maddie (Clark) Meenan  
3rd Stephan Mihailov

EGG TOSS  
1st Stephan Mihailov/Jonathan Bennet  
2nd Selene Rhoades/Maddi (Clark) Meenan  
3rd Kyra Maxfield/Aleksa Mihailov


HANDMUCKING  
1ST Aleksa Mihailov  
2nd Kyra Maxfield  
3rd Jonathan Bennet

SOFTBALL TOSS  
1st Jonathan Bennet  
2nd Stephan Mihailov  
3rd Aleksa Mihailov

THE Town of Silverton's Mayor and Board of Trustees would like to Thank the Silverton San Juan Volunteer Fire Department, THE TOWN OF SILVERTON Public Works Personnel and San Juan Sweeping & Striping, for their collaborative EFFORT TO COMPLETE GREENE Street washing and striping. Great Job! Thank you also to the Grand Imperial Hotel which donated the funds for THE STREET WASHING.

The Silverton Standard & the Miner's

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY



RETAIL CANNABIS

**The same great prices for locals and visitors**

124 E 13th St Unit A  
Silverton, CO  
(970) 387-9931



**Monument**  
Computer Repair & Systems, LLC  
Durango, Colorado

**Remote access or drop off!**

- Crashes
- Viruses
- Cleaning
- Upgrades
- Networking
- Malware

(970) 259-0202  
monumentpcrepair@gmail.com

**WE SOLVE COMPUTER PROBLEMS**



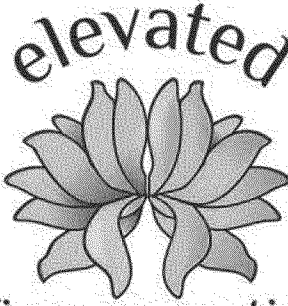
**Home Maintenance**

- Minor Repairs • Painting & Staining
- Window Cleaning • Chimney Cleaning
- Snow Removal • Pet Sitting

**Gardening Service**

- Spring Cleanups • Lawn Care
- Pruning • Landscaping

**Steve Allen**  
(970) 560-6566



**elevated**  
fine properties

Happy To Serve All of Silverton's Real Estate Needs with Energy, Responsiveness, and Integrity.

(970) 903-4132  
melissamchilds@gmail.com

**DONNY SCHMIEDEL**  
Professional Remodeling  
Interior & Exterior  
Call (970) 779-8075  
for free estimate  
southpawdesigns.org

- Fully Insured
- Kitchen & Bath
- Remodels
- Drywall & Painting
- Tile - Showers, Floors, Walls
- Computer Design Work

'Integrity, Professionalism, Craftsmanship'

**NATALIA'S 1912 RESTAURANT**

Now open for lunch and dinner

Delicious daily and nightly features!

12th and Blair

**San Juan Law Office, LLC**

Serving the Colorado Business Community

Silverton, Colorado  
970 387-5210  
www.sjlollc.com



**Serving home-made baked goods, coffee, breakfast burritos, sandwiches, wraps, pizza ...**

**AND BEER!**

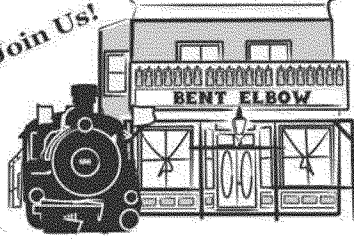
7 AM-9 PM  
Seven Days a Week

**GLOBAL CLASSIFIEDS**

**Serving the Entire World !**  
(From Red Mountain Pass to Cascade Creek)

(970) 387-5477  
editor@silvertonstandard.com  
www.silvertonstandard.com

Join Us!



**Bent Elbow**

Open Daily for lunch:  
11 AM - 2:30 PM  
Dinner: Friday-Tuesday,  
5-8:30 PM  
1114 Blair St. Silverton

**Shangri-La Soaking Pools**  
located in Smedleys.

1314 Greene St  
970 387-5713

Walk-ins welcome  
Private groups available



n i g h t t r a i n



Old Engine 493, which sits on the sidetrack near the Silverton Depot.

Photo by Alan Sanchez

### 2015 OHV Rally & Festival

Cottonwood Creek • Round Top • Stony Pass • Lost Trail • Hill 71 • Wager Gulch

Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway • Cannibal Plateau • Schafer Gulch • Nellie Creek

**September 4-7 in Lake City, Colorado**

No trailering necessary. Open to all OHVs

On designated route through town & on Hwy 149

**2 Nights FREE Live Music, Community Dinner, RZR Raffle, Stay the Trail Info Booth & MORE!**

PLEASE Pre-register for FREE & More Info at [www.lakecity.com](http://www.lakecity.com) • Event Calendar • OHV Rally

OR Call 970-944-2527 Mon-Fri 9-5pm, Sat 10-2pm

**Hosted by Lake City Chamber of Commerce**

### Bible Teachings

Silverton Library

1111 Reese St., Silverton

Sunday 4:00pm, Monday 7:30pm, Tuesday 8:00pm

August 23, 24, 25

*Reverent services upholding the life and teachings of Jesus Christ*

All are welcome - No collections

Eldon Llenas 808.277.8323      Skyler Gartin 303.898.0340

## SYNC2

To place a 25-word COSCAN Network ad in 80 Colorado newspapers for only \$350, contact your local newspaper or call SYNC2 Media at 303-571-5117.

### HELP WANTED - DRIVERS

**25 DRIVER TRAINEES NEEDED!**  
Learn to drive for May Trucking at US Truck.  
Earn \$750 per week!  
CDL & Job Ready in 3 weeks!  
1-800-809-2141

### HELP WANTED - DRIVERS

**DRIVER TRAINEES NEEDED!** Become a driver for Stevens Transport! **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!** New drivers earn \$800+ per week! **PAID CDL TRAINING!** Stevens covers all costs!  
1-888-734-6714 [drive4stevens.com](http://drive4stevens.com)

### SYNC2 MEDIA

Buy a 25-word statewide classified line ad in newspapers across the state of Colorado for just \$350 per week.  
Ask about our Frequency Discounts. Contact this newspaper or call SYNC2 Media, 303-571-5117.

### Monsanto's ROUND UP

**Diagnosed with a serious medical condition, including Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, after exposure to Monsanto's Round Up pesticide?**

**You may be entitled to compensation**

**Call McDivitt Law Firm**

**Toll Free: 888-212-1322**

**ADVERTISEMENT**

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
Historic Review Committee  
1036 Empire Street

TOWN of Silverton hereby gives notice of a hearing to receive public comment regarding a redevelopment proposal by Mi Casa Es Su Casa, owner of a 2,500 square foot lot located at 1036 Empire Street (Block 35, Lot 7) within the Historic Overlay District of the B-P Business Pedestrian Zone. The applicant is seeking demolish the existing, uninhabited 1-story structure and construct a new 2-story mixed-used building. The Historic Review Committee will conduct the public hearing in the Trustees' Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Town Hall, 1360 Greene Street, Silverton, Colorado on Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at 5:30 P.M.

NOTICE is further given that all persons may submit oral and/or written testimony concerning this project prior to, or at the public hearing. Interested persons may review the project information at Town Hall in the office of Bob Nevins, Planning Director or by calling 970-387-5522, Ext. 16 during regular business hours.

Published in the Silverton Standard & the Miner on Aug. 13, 2015.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
Historic Review Committee  
1036 Empire Street

TOWN of Silverton hereby gives notice of a hearing to receive public comment regarding a proposal by American Heritage Railways Hotels, LLC, owner of the Grand Imperial Hotel located at 1219 Greene Street (Block 21, Lots 13-16) within the Historic Overlay District of the B-P Business Pedestrian Zone. The applicant is seeking to construct a new minor addition for an enclosed basement entrance on the south side of the hotel near the corner of Greene and 12th Streets. The Historic Review Committee will conduct the public hearing in the Trustees' Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Town Hall, 1360 Greene Street, Silverton, Colorado on Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at 5:30 P.M.

NOTICE is further given that all persons may submit oral and/or written testimony concerning this project prior to, or at the public hearing. Interested persons may review the project information at Town Hall in the office of Bob Nevins, Planning Director or by calling 970-387-5522, Ext. 16 during regular business hours.

Published in the Silverton Standard & the Miner on Aug. 13, 2015.

## SILVERTON STANDARD GLOBAL CLASSIFIEDS

### Serving the Entire World !

(from Red Mountain Pass to Cascade Creek)  
(970) 387-5477  
[editor@silvertonstandard.com](mailto:editor@silvertonstandard.com)  
[www.silvertonstandard.com](http://www.silvertonstandard.com)

**PrOperty fOr Sale**  
**Own a summer silver mine** (good road access-15 minute summer drive to Silverton) and a winter ski cabin site (with all permits) 20 minutes on skis from Highway 550: <http://www.silvertongold.org/>

**Five town lots for sale below Shrine Hill**, close to library, school, and downtown, near city water & sewage, Block 39, Lots 5-9, \$175,000, 435-574-2555 [ssmorris77@msn.com](mailto:ssmorris77@msn.com)

**for rent**  
**4 BED/4 BATH HOUSE**  
**FOR RENT.** \$2000/MONTH.  
970.903.4132

**FOR RENT OR SALE**  
Beautifully restored historic building in downtown Silverton, Colorado. 840 sq. ft. storefront with an 875-square-foot studio apartment. Totally renovated from top to bottom. E-mail: [livethedreamsilvertont@yahoo.com](mailto:livethedreamsilvertont@yahoo.com)

**Benson Lodge Apartment for Rent.** \$550/month. Includes Direct TV/ Wifi/Private Bath/ Kitchenette/ Laundry/ All Utilities. 970.903.4132

3 Bed/2 Bath House For Rent.  
2 Car Detached Garage. \$900/month plus utilities. Avail Sept 1.  
970.903.4132

h e l p W a n t e d

**Help wanted:** mature, reliable, experienced house cleaners. Villa Dallavalla, 387-5555 or stop by.

**FULL TIME AND PART TIME**  
wait person. year round. Apply at Brown Bear.

Silverton School District #1  
Full time Maintenance and Custodial Position:  
The Silverton Public School is accepting applications for a full time Maintenance and Custodial position. High school graduate or equivalent with one to three years experience required.

Responsible for the overall management of the custodial, maintenance, grounds and vehicle management functions of the District. 40 hours per week. Applicant must hold a valid Driver's license. Pay range depending on qualifications and experience, plus benefits.

Summary:  
Skill Requirements

- Equipment operation
- Hand and power tools
- Basic carpentry, plumbing, electrical, key and lock
- Maintenance and repair knowledge
- Knowledge of use and handling of cleaning chemicals
- Knowledge of supervision and work direction
- Effective communication

General Expectations

- Is flexible
- Has the ability to work cooperatively with supervisors and coworkers
- Maintains a generally positive attitude
- Observes all district policies and procedures

Please submit a letter of interest and resume to the Silverton Public School District #1, PO Box 128, 1160 Snowden Street, Silverton, CO 81433 or email [business@silvertonschool.org](mailto:business@silvertonschool.org) ATTN: Main-

tenance and Custodial Position by August 28, 2015. For more information, please contact Superintendent Kim White at 387-5543. The Silverton School District is an equal opportunity employer. (7-27)

**for Sale**  
**'06 Buick LaCrosse**, 103,000 miles, New Mexico car, always garaged until it made its way to Silverton. Great shape. Well-maintained. 815 482-6084 (8/20)

**Equipment for sale**  
Business closing. Equipment sale; CNC router; table saws, band saws, drill press, planers, air compressors and much more. Photos of equipment can be viewed on Flickr at <https://goo.gl/xonbrn>; Region 9 EDD Venture Equipment. Equipment can be viewed in storage facility in Silverton on Saturday, August 15 from 9 am to 12 noon. All equipment will be sold in one lot. Make offer. For a complete list or for information on location for viewing equipment call Region 9 Economic Development District at 970-247-9621.

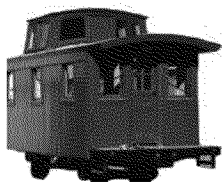
**Notices**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
The San Juan County Historical Society is asking for RFP to do some repairs and painting on the Archive Building. Please consult with Steve Rich at 970-387-5090 for specifics. The Society would like to receive proposals by August 21st, so that the work can proceed in September. Proposals can left at the museum between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Metal Prices	
Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2015	
GOLD	1124.60
SILVER	15.54
PLATINUM	999.00
PALLADIUM	623.00
COPPER	2.3417
NICKEL	4.8135
ZINC	0.8318
LEAD	0.7856

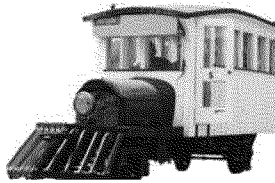
**ELECTION NOTICE**  
**On November 3, 2015, San Juan** County voters will be electing directors for the San Juan County Board of Education. There will be four seats open on the school board this November in the Coordinated Election. Two seats will be for two-year terms and two seats will be for four-year terms. Candidates must be a registered voter and a resident of the school district for at least 12 consecutive months before the election. Candidates must electronically file, via the TRACER online disclosure system, a Candidate Affidavit with the Secretary of State's office within 10 days of becoming a candidate. <http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/CampaignFinance/filing.html>  
Petition packets will be available at the Silverton School office: 1160 Snowden St, and can begin circulation on August 5, 2015. 25 valid signatures are required. Petitions must be notarized and delivered to the San Juan County Clerk's office, Ladonna Jaramillo: 1557 Greene St, on or no later than August 28, 2015 by 4:00 p.m.

Published in the Silverton Standard & the Miner on July 30 and Aug. 6, 2015.





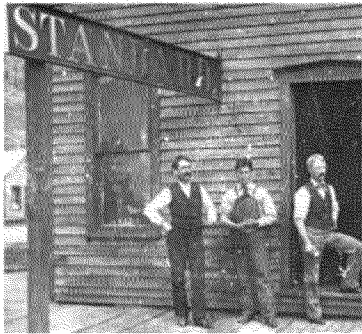
# Silverton Standard & CABOOSE



Thursday, August 13, 2015

"The Past is not dead. In fact, it's not even past." — William Faulkner

## WAY BACK!



135 years ago

From the August 21, 1880 edition of the *La Plata Miner*:

### CORNERSTONE PLACED FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The ceremony of laying the corner stone of the new Congregational Church in Silverton occurred Friday, August 20th, at 2 p.m. The services were opened by singing and prayer, followed by a brief but appropriate address by Rev. Mr. Janeway of Ouray. A short address was also made by Rev. Mr. Roberts, of Silverton, after which the ceremony of laying the stone was proceeded with. In the vault over which the stone was placed, were enclosed four Denver papers of recent date, a copy of the *Congregationalist*, and a copy of the *La Plata Miner* of August 14, 1880, and a brief history of the church. The hymn, "Rock of Ages," was sung and the services closed with the benediction pronounced by Rev. Mr. Janeway.

There were about four hundred people present, of whom about fifty were ladies. ... The people of Silverton will soon have a good substantial and comfortable church edifice, and there will be no reason why they should not be well cared for in things spiritual. So mote it be.

125 years ago

From the Aug. 16, 1890 edition of the *Silverton Standard*:

Dr. Sanden's Electro-Magnetic Belt will cure without medicine rheumatism, pains in the back and limbs, kidney and bladder complaints, nervous debility, exhaustion. ... We especially recommend them to young men suffering from vital

## Gold King, 1906



San Juan County Historical Society photo

The Gold King Mine and boarding house in 1906 at left, tram buildings, generator unit and dump in center. Despite marginal notation, this picture would have been taken after 1910 because of the addition of the new descending covered walkway between the tram buildings and the boarding house.

115 years ago

From the August 10, 1900 edition of the *Silverton Miner*:

### BOOM ANTICIPATED AT ANIMAS FORKS.

Rasmus Hanson, one of the old pioneers and well-known mining man of Eureka district, was in the city Tuesday of this week and reports that section ablaze with activity. In a conversation with our correspondent he stated that there was no longer any doubt that the mineral belt from Eureka to Mineral Point would develop some of the greatest mines in this section. ...

With the railroad to Animas Forks, it would not take many days for this once lively little city to arise from the grave and be a business center to that section of more than 500 inhabitants.

55 years ago

From the August 19, 1960 edition of the *Silverton Standard*:

### AMERICAN TUNNEL REACHES 7,612 FEET.

It was reported in the *Standard* this week that the American

Tunnel is now in 7,612 feet as of

August 13. During the five-day period of August 8 through August 12, the crew advanced 150 feet. On August 11, an advance of 38 feet was made in a 24-hour period.

The New Silverton Bakery is displaying one of the newest creations of artist Vern Parker.

It is a 4x12 mural of the Silverton train in the cliffs. The painting is beautifully done and one of the finest we have seen.

45 years ago

From the August 21, 1970 edition of the *Silverton Standard*:

### BEAUTY SHOP OPENS.

Today marks the grand opening of another year-round business in Silverton, the Silverton Beauty Shop.

The shop, which is located in the rear of Wilma's Dry Goods in the old Jones Store building, is operated by Jean Shearer, assisted on a part-time basis by Lynn Pense.

This past Saturday saw the first shipment of crude ore from the Columbus portal above Animas Forks for Maxwell Mining and Milling Company, according to reports from company spokesmen.

## Looking Back

20 Years Ago

August 17, 1995

Some visitors to town have reportedly been commenting on the nice Silverton Memorial Park sign, spelled out in whitewashed stones at the park. Dan McLaughlin did the work.

On behalf of the Silverton Volunteer Fire Department, the Town of Silverton is applying for grant money to plan the renovation of the original town hall and firehouse as a firemen's museum. The 1883 structure, at 1245 Blair, once housed town offices on the upper floor and the local fire department on the lower floor.

Former Silverton miner Rick Ernst chalked up yet another victory last weekend — his ninth such win in 24 annual Hardrockers Holidays. If he wins again next year it will be his third year in a row, and he will retire the trophy.

Ernst, who now lives in Dove Creek, earned 340 points in the pentathlon this year.

In second place, with 320 points, was County Commissioner Terry Rhoades. ...

Former Silverton miner Harley Gardner, now of Dove Creek, placed third with 315 points.

25 Years Ago

August 23, 1990

False arrest is not only not funny, but it is damned humiliating. I now finally realize that Silverton doesn't like me! ...

Don Stott

30 Years Ago

August 22, 1985

This year's turnout for the Silverton Lake Yacht Club Regatta, held August 3, was beyond expectations, according to commodore Terry Kerwin.

All yachts had the required sounding devices, although one was jettisoned in a hopeless attempt to lighten the craft and thus win. Naturally, the boat was disqualified and the captain left the lake in disgrace.

35 Years Ago

August 21, 1980

Eric Crow, a ten year old Silverton boy, was accidentally shot in the head Saturday night and remains in serious condition at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction.

Malva Romero and George Gutierrez are the parents of a baby girl, born Friday, August 15, at Community Hospital. She weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces.

Preliminary census figures for 1980 show a reduction of 7.3 percent for San Juan County compared to 1970 results. ...

The Silverton population in 1970 was listed as 797 while the present year preliminary figures show 735. For the county, 1980 was 770 compared with 831 in 1970.

The Silverton Brass Band will be playing in Silver Plume, Colorado this weekend for their 100th anniversary celebration.



**"Death notices for delinquent subscribers will not be inserted."**  
— an extract from the *Gladstone Kibosh*, January 5, 1901

### Subscribe to the Silverton Standard!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, state, ZIP code: \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and fill out this form, enclose a check and mail to:

Silverton Standard & the Miner  
P.O. Box 8  
Silverton, CO 81433  
Or call us with credit card info: (970) 387-5477

Rates: \$24 a year for Silverton residents; \$48 per year for all other deliveries in the United States. E-mail subscription, \$26 a year. Donations to the *Silverton Standard* are now tax deductible! Help this historic newspaper survive!

This building on Silverton's main street is an incredible investment opportunity. Leased to a solid retail tenant, the building also has three large apartments with a nearly 0% vacancy rate. This is a turnkey moneymaker. \$549,000

